

WOODLAWN
Fairfax County
Virginia

HALS XX-##

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED AND INTERPRETIVE DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

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WOODLAWN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
U.S. Route 1
Fairfax County
Virginia

HALS No. VA-XXX

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David Diener, Photographer, September 2014

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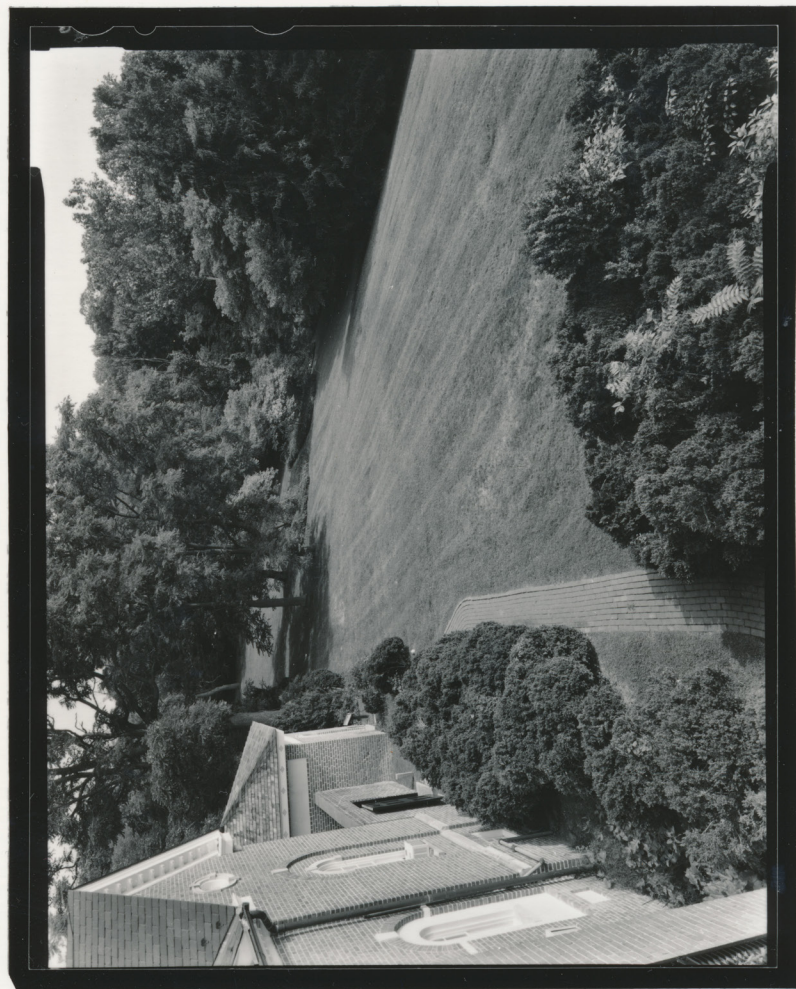
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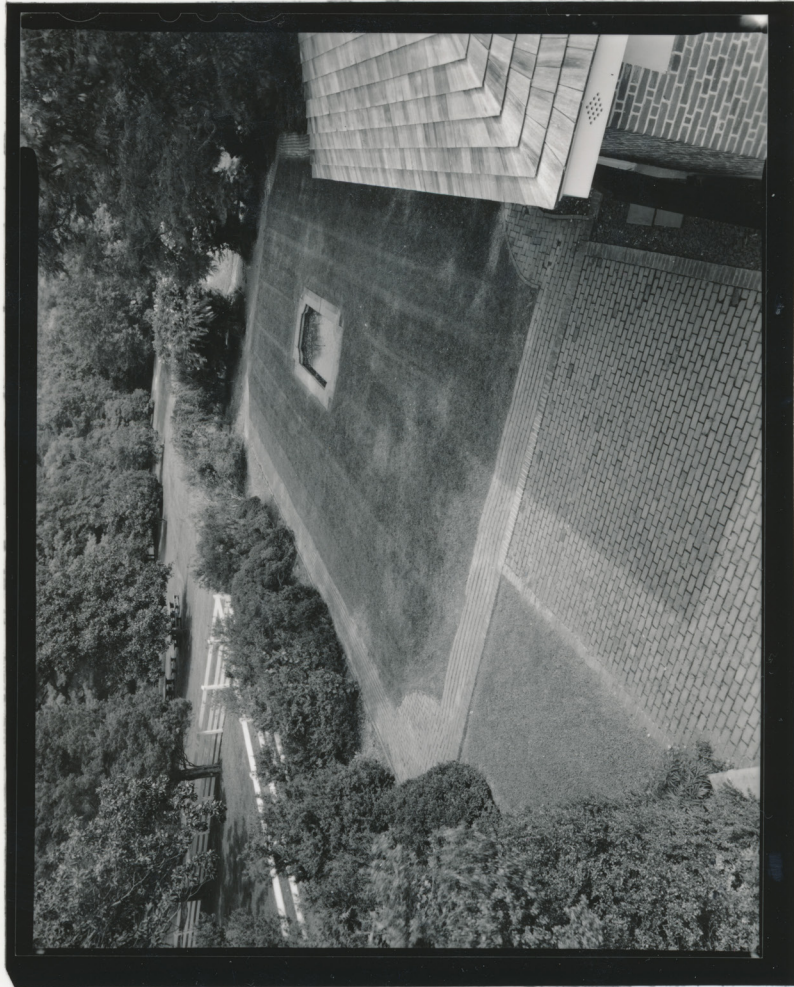
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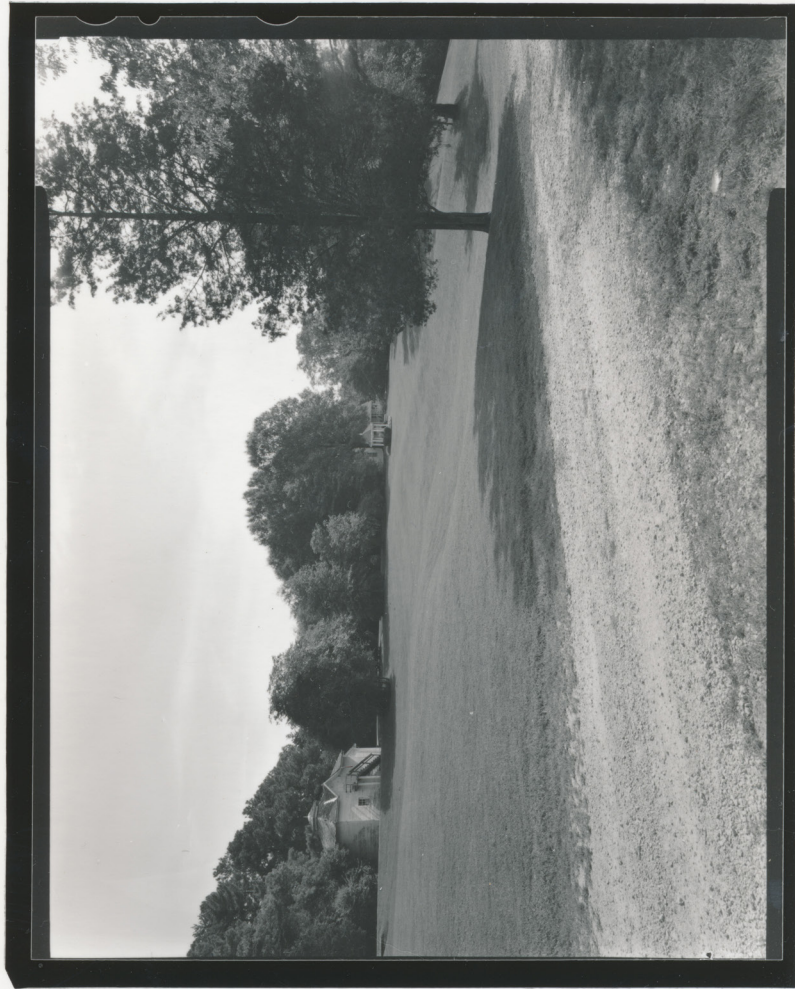
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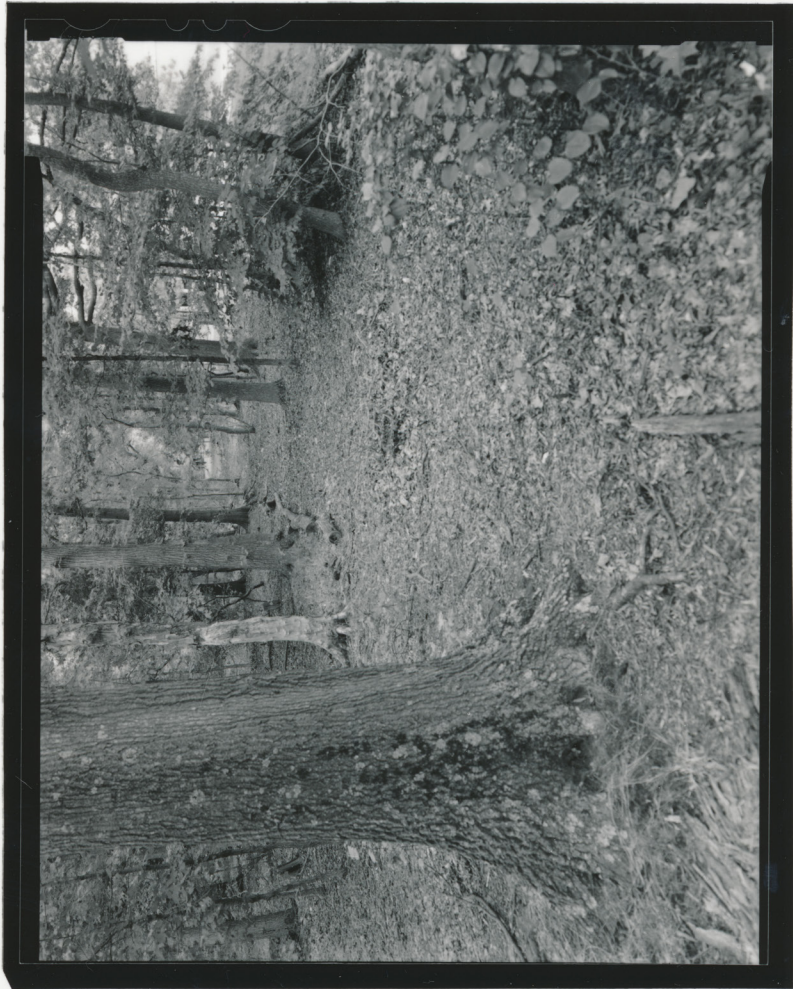
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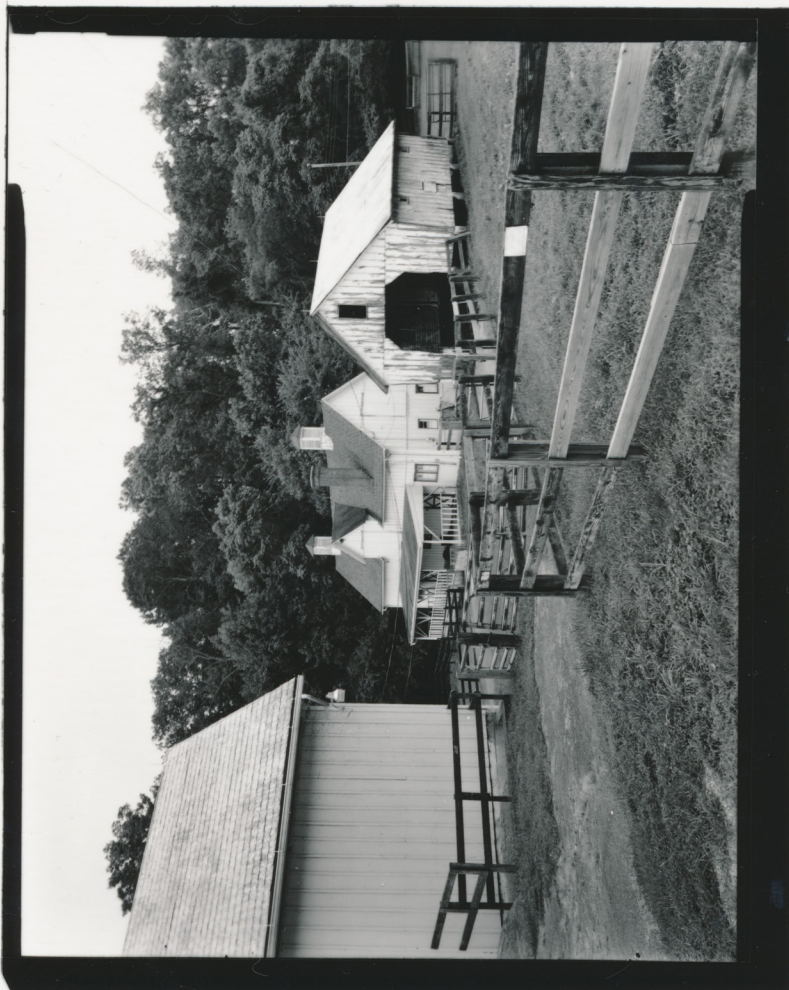
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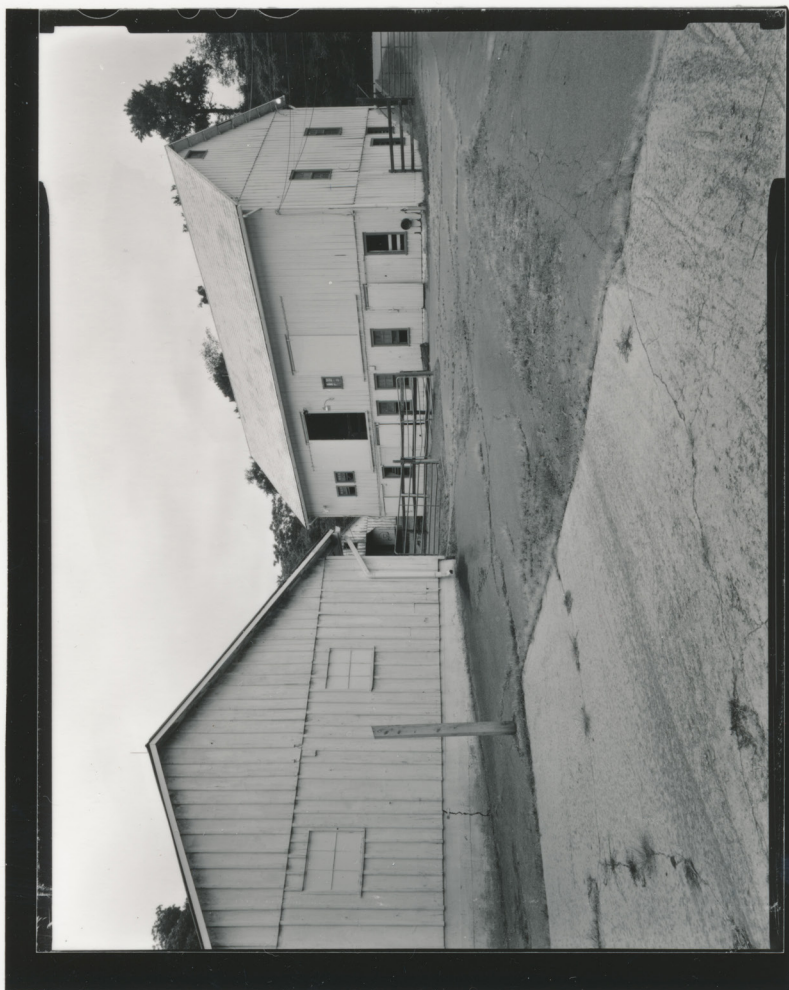
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HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY

WOODLAWN

HALS NO. XX-##

Location: Woodlawn is located in highly suburbanized southeastern Fairfax County in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Northern Virginia cultural region. Woodlawn lies approximately seven miles southwest of Alexandria, straddling U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway/State Route 235. Woodlawn's core boundary encompasses 138.42 acres, which is roughly bounded by Dogue Creek to the south and east; Fort Belvoir to the north and west; Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to the east; and Old Mill Road to the east.

Lat: 38.715657 Long: -77.135498 (Center of Woodlawn Historic Overlay District, along Richmond Highway, Google Earth, Simple Cylindrical Projection, WGS84)

Significance: Woodlawn has a complex and multifaceted past as its various properties not only convey individual histories, but also form a broader, intermingled history. Woodlawn retains the last traces of a historically rural, agricultural community that reflect patterns of settlement, use, and development of both the land and its buildings.

Woodlawn's period of significance begins in 1799, when George Washington left nearly 2,000 acres to his step granddaughter, Eleanor Custis Parke Lewis, and her husband, Lawrence. The period ends in 1964 when the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) preserved Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by relocating it to Woodlawn. Woodlawn is significant in the areas of agricultural history, community planning, religion, social history, ethnic heritage, and conservation. Adding to Woodlawn's historical significance are its buildings, structures, landscapes, and gardens, which demonstrate different periods, movements, and styles in architecture and landscape architecture.

Woodlawn Mansion, designed in the early 1800s by Dr. William Thornton, represents a notable example of residential architecture that integrates Georgian and Federal features. The mansion also exhibits twentieth-century Colonial Revival design elements by restoration architects Edward W. Donn, Jr. and Waddy Wood. In addition, the grounds immediately surrounding Woodlawn Mansion reflect landscape designs associated with the Colonial Revival Movement, including a 1920s formal garden implemented by owner Bertha Underwood and remnants of a 1950s restoration landscape plan by Alden Hopkins. Dating to the early 1930s, the reconstructed gristmill and miller's house at George Washington's Gristmill and Distillery also provide significant

examples of Colonial Revival architecture at Woodlawn. The Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse, which exemplifies the vernacular Quaker Plain Style, and the relocated Pope-Leighey House, associated with the Modern Movement, further enhance Woodlawn's architectural diversity. In addition, Grand View stands as one of the oldest surviving Quaker houses in the area.

With regards to agricultural history, Woodlawn contains the former site of Washington's gristmill and distillery operation that was successful during the late eighteenth century. Throughout the early nineteenth century, Woodlawn composed a plantation landscape under the Lewis family although their agricultural efforts proved unsuccessful. From the mid to late nineteenth century, Quaker and Baptist settlers and freedmen divided the acreage to create a farming community that succeeded in timber production, fruit crops, and other agricultural yields. Land at Woodlawn continued to be used for agricultural purposes into the twentieth century as owner Elizabeth Sharpe constructed a dairy, a large bank barn, a corncrib, and other farm buildings. From the 1950s until 2014, Sharpe's complex served as an equestrian facility under its ownership of the National Trust. The acreage that composes Woodlawn thus reflects various patterns of agricultural usage from the past two centuries.

Woodlawn is significant in the area of community planning as a contiguous 138.42-acre group of parcels once associated with a pre-Civil War Quaker settlement in which approximately 2,000 acres of land was divided into small farms and sold to free African Americans, northern Quakers, and other abolitionists. This bold social experiment created a multiracial community of like-minded individuals that successfully operated without the use of slave labor in a southern, slaveholding state. The community grew after the Civil War, with new residences, churches, businesses, infrastructure, and civic organizations established within the remaining 138.42 acres and in the surrounding area throughout the nineteenth century. For these reasons, Woodlawn also is significant in the areas of social history and ethnic heritage.

In the area of religion, the Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse and Burial Ground and the Woodlawn Baptist Church Cemetery provide physical evidence of the mid-nineteenth century Quaker and Baptist religious communities. As the Quakers and Baptists used Woodlawn Mansion as a place of worship, their religiously-based ideals influenced their management, division, and sale of land, as well as the push toward education for all by the settlers. As for education, Grand View serves as a physical symbol of educational empowerment at Woodlawn because of its association with builder Joseph Mosher Wood and his wife, Elizabeth Townsend Wood, who were important advocates for education during the Reconstruction era.

As for conservation, Woodlawn is regionally significant because the portion of land that contains the restored gristmill and miller's house became the first state park in Virginia to be interpreted as a historic site. Also in the area of conservation, the Woodlawn Public Foundation's efforts to acquire and preserve Woodlawn Mansion exemplified the purpose for creating the National Trust for Historic Preservation and resulted in the National Trust accepting Woodlawn as its flagship property in 1951. In addition, Woodlawn contains modern architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, which the National Trust preserved in the 1960s by relocating to the Woodlawn property. Woodlawn also represents the continued careful maintenance by successive tenants and owners of both historic and newly constructed resources.

Description: Woodlawn is comprised of six contiguous parcels that total 138.42 acres and are owned by different entities. The parcels contain preserved buildings, land, and vistas, which represent man-made expansions, divisions, reuse, and conservation in the area historically known as Woodlawn since the late-eighteenth century.

Parcel 1: The North Parcel contains 65.6 acres owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and includes numerous historic resources. Woodlawn Mansion is centrally located within the parcel with Pope-Leighey House a short distance to its northeast and Grand View to its southwest. U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway bounds the southern portion of this parcel, while Mulligan Road exists along its eastern edge. Woodlawn Road delineates the majority of the parcel's western edge from the adjacent Fort Belvoir.

Woodlawn – Situated at a high point on the property, Woodlawn Mansion, completed in 1805, reflects the Palladian architectural style and has a five-part plan. Several outbuildings are located around the main house. On the southwest side is a brick dairy connected to the house by a garden wall. A short distance southwest of the dairy is a reconstructed, hexagonal necessary. In addition, a rectangular, a-frame well house exists immediately west of the dairy and is set into a brick patio. To the northeast of Woodlawn is a brick smokehouse, which also is connected to the main building by a garden wall. The garden walls at each end of the house have inset doors that provide access to Woodlawn's southeastern façade.

The Underwood Garden, dating from 1925 to 1929, exists in a small, rectangular space immediately northeast of Woodlawn Mansion and the smokehouse. The garden contains a central pool with a fountain surrounded by lawn. Brick paths outline the garden and are edged on the exterior with dense boxwood plantings that give a sense of enclosure. The garden contains several access points, including one at the northeast end framed by a pair of arching crape myrtle trees, which leads to a flat lawn area used for special events.

The landscape adjacent to the southeastern façade of Woodlawn Mansion mostly consists of sloping lawn with a few ornamental plantings, such as a semicircle of boxwood near the entrance. The landscape beyond the lawn area consists of a series of sloping wooded terraces. The terraces lead to a large grass field and a small farmed field managed by the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture. South of the fields are buffer plantings and remnants of a low, post-and-rail wood fence along U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway.

Within the wooded terraces are two clearings that provide vistas during winter months southeast toward the Grist Mill Woods Subdivision and the Sharpe Stable Complex. While areas of development now exist between Woodlawn and Mount Vernon, the historic vista that continued about three miles southeast toward Mount Vernon and the Potomac River remains intact.

The northwestern façade of Woodlawn Mansion is met by a circular, dirt, and gravel drive that splits into two separate driveways to the northwest and southwest. This symmetrical dual-arm driveway connects with the public entrance drive that leads to a parking lot edged in cobblestones and granite curbing. In the space between the dual-arm driveway, traces remain of symmetrical, serpentine pea gravel paths edged in brick with adjacent mixed tree and shrub groupings. The paths and vegetation frame a bowling green, or lawn, that enables visitors a glimpse of Woodlawn Mansion from the public entrance drive.

In the area south of the dual-arm driveway are remnants of an enclosed formal garden. A brick walkway beginning at the southwestern edge of the public parking lot and extending beside the circular drive in front of the main house provides access to the garden. The brick path continues southwest through the garden, bisecting the space and terminating at a summer house constructed in the 1950s. A grouping of Eastern red cedars grows behind the summer house. Various fruit trees planted in the area southwest of the formal garden suggest a former orchard.

In the northeastern part of the remnant formal garden, traces of parterres remain visible, although weeds mostly cover the pea gravel paths between the geometric planting beds. Dense shrub groupings of boxwood and roses separate the parterres from the remainder of the garden to its southwest. The Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture currently leases the roughly one-and-a-half acres for use as a community garden. The space, referred to as “Arcadia Farm,” contains a storage shed, raised wooden planters, and a chicken house, among other features. Fencing encloses the majority of the remnant formal garden and Eastern red cedars line the exterior of its northeastern and southwestern edges.

Grand View – Initially constructed as a single-family residence Ca. 1869, Grand View is currently divided into two, two-story apartments. The building is located a short distance southwest of Woodlawn Mansion. A cedar-lined gravel road connects the two sites and forms a loop between Grand View and the nearby maintenance building. Several parking spaces are located along the southeastern edge of the loop. A running-bond brick path provides pedestrian access from the parking area to the north, west, and east entrances of Grand View.

Grand View is a wood clapboard building that includes a double-pile, three-bay, side-gable I-house main block and a rear, two-story gable ell. The south portion of the building includes single-story shed additions on both east and west elevations. These shed additions are enclosed, although the west elevation also contains an open porch addition. Foundation plantings along the house mostly consist of boxwood and a specimen Japanese maple. Several large oak trees grow in the landscape immediately surrounding the house. In the woods south of the house are remnants of a former chicken house.

A large expanse of undulating lawn defines the space mostly to the northwest of Grand View. Within this lawn is a hexagonal gazebo, erected in 1985, with base plantings of boxwood and liriop. To the north of the gazebo and on the northwestern side of the gravel driveway loop is a maintenance building. It includes a one-and-one-half-story wood shiplap-clad, roughly square main block built Ca. 1915 as a garage. A garage door exists along the southeast elevation of its first story, while an exterior staircase on the southwest elevation leads to the half-story entrance. A large one-story, four-bay, and gable shed addition used for equipment storage extends from the northeast side of the main block.

The gravel road alongside the maintenance building extends northwest from the turnaround and links with the paved main driveway leading to and from Woodlawn. The paved main road also provides access to a private gravel drive west of Grand View that connects with U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway. Dense woods along a section of land on the north side of U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway buffer Grand View from nearby traffic.

Pope-Leighey House – The small, L-shaped, flat-roofed, single story building designed by architect Frank Lloyd Wright exists in a wooded area northeast of Woodlawn Mansion. A curving asphalt drive extends northeast from the main parking lot to provide access to Pope-Leighey House. There is an accessible parking space near the end of the drive. An exposed aggregate walkway connects the drive to the house. A wooden bench along the walk, in addition to another beneath the cantilevered carport, provides a resting place for visitors awaiting the house tour.

Wright designed the modest single-family residence in his Usonian style. Though one story, the building was constructed of cypress panels and brick on a sloping site, which enabled it to have two levels. A hemicycle landscape designed by Wright defines the area immediately northeast of the house. The plan includes a u-shaped garden with mixed shrubs and perennials that offset the angular house. A tulip poplar at the edge of the hemicycle completes the rectangular form insinuated by the house's L-shaped footprint.

Parcel 2: The Crossroad Parcel contains 2.82 acres owned by NTHP. It exists at the southwestern edge of the North Parcel. Woodlawn Road enters the parcel from the southwest at its intersection with U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway. It serves as the public entrance to Woodlawn Mansion while also providing access to the Quaker Meetinghouse. The road initially curves west alongside the Quaker Meetinghouse Parcel and then extends northeast toward the visitor's parking lot in the North Parcel. The parcel contains a late 1970s small, frame gatehouse adjacent to wooden gate that restricts access to Woodlawn Mansion when it is closed. The parcel is mostly open with some ornamental tree plantings, including a deodar cedar and a row of cherry trees.

Parcel 3: The Quaker Meetinghouse Parcel contains 2.40 acres and is owned by the Alexandria Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. To its east is the Crossroads Parcel while the land to its north, west, and south are part of Fort Belvoir. In addition, U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway is located south of this parcel. The Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse and Burial Ground are among the primary resources within the tract. The surrounding deciduous woods partially shield the building and cemetery from visible encroachment related to development at Fort Belvoir and traffic from U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway.

A gravel driveway that forms an arc from Woodlawn Road provides access to the Quaker Meetinghouse. Informal parking exists in several areas along the driveway. To the west of the driveway is the meetinghouse. The wood-framed historic building reflects the "cottage" meetinghouse type of the vernacular Quaker Plain Style with its side-gable orientation. The building has a deep porch that wraps around its east and south facades. Along the eastern side of the building are some foundation plantings, including a juniper, a holly, and vinca vine.

The burial ground exists near the southwest corner of the meetinghouse and contains more than a hundred grave markers of Quakers and non-Quakers. Most markers are modest in size and made of granite or marble. The majority of markers are situated in east-west rows with inscriptions facing both north and south. The cemetery has a variety of vegetation, such as boxwood, eastern red cedars, oak trees, and yucca plants, typically associated with this type of cultural site. The trace of a former cart road remains visible to the south of the burial ground.

To the north of the burial ground and meetinghouse is a reconstructed horse shed, which serves as a storage space. Mulched paths with log edging exist in the wooded area to west of the horse shed, meetinghouse, and burial ground. A mound with vinca vine and salvaged gravestones added in the 1990s is situated in the woods at a point where several of the paths meet. Two benches and a birdbath are situated alongside the mound, which serves as a focal point. In the woods slightly northwest of the mound exists the trace of another cart road.

Parcel 4: Woodlawn Baptist Church owns this parcel of 5.16 acres on the southern side of U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway. The primary resource on the site is the cemetery, situated on a hill rising above the highway and bisecting the access driveway. The oldest part of the cemetery lies west of the driveway where grave markers are set beneath the canopy of numerous large oak trees. The newer section of the cemetery exists to the east of the driveway. It contains grave markers and several brick retaining walls demarcating family plots. Vegetation on the eastern side is limited with the most notable feature being a grand oak tree. The entire cemetery contains 133 markers although additional burial sites exist within the ground.

The 1970s L-shaped, brick education building with its attached sanctuary of Woodlawn Baptist Church exists south of the newer section of cemetery. An area of lawn with plantings of Bradford pears and juvenile oak trees defines the space along the northeastern corner of the building near the sanctuary's main entrance. Set within the lawn is a bell atop a brick base. A gravel driveway encircles the building and surrounding lawn while providing access to several adjacent informal parking areas. Two equipment sheds exist near the parking south of the building while a fenced-in utility area is located adjacent to the parking on the western side. Several deciduous trees and an Eastern red cedar grow along the southern side of the driveway. Remnants of a former road are visible at the edge of the cedar.

Dense vegetation consisting mostly of mature hardwood trees defines the area east of the building and the newer cemetery. This forest inhibits views of the adjacent tract containing the Sharpe Stable Complex and the Otis Tufton Mason House. A notably large sycamore tree grows along the exterior edge of the driveway near the southeast corner of the building. An area of open field is carved out of the land southeast of the building and its driveway.

Parcel 5: The National Trust for Historic Preservation owns the South Parcel, an area of 56.7 acres east of Woodlawn Baptist Church Cemetery. Dense woods provide a visual barrier between the two properties. U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway delineates the northern edge of the tract while Mount Vernon Memorial Highway/State Route 235 defines its eastern side. A curve of Dogue

Creek bounds the south portion of the property. Among the primary resources on the property are buildings, structures, and landscape features associated with the Sharpe Stable Complex, as well as the adjacent Otis Tufton Mason House.

Sharpe Stable Complex – The entrance to the Sharpe Stable Complex is on the south side of U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway, opposite the private gravel drive to Woodlawn Mansion and Grand View. The road providing access to the Sharpe Stable Complex splits from U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway and extends a short distance east before reconnecting with the highway. The access road follows a former alignment of U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway.

On the north side of the access road, a small section of densely woods buffers the complex from nearby traffic along the highway. Several small fenced paddocks exist on the south side of the access road. At a central point between the paddocks, a paved area connects with a strip used for parking. Five unoccupied buildings are clustered in the area south of the paddocks and parking strip.

A large, rectangular stable built Ca. 1963 with an indoor riding arena attached to its eastern side occupies the space immediately south of the parking strip. To the west of this stable is another smaller, rectangular stable originally constructed Ca. 1913 as a carriage shed. A concrete bridge, reconstructed in the 1990s, spans a stream just south of and in between the two buildings. To the west of the former carriage shed is a rectangular, one-and-a-half story dairy, erected Ca. 1913. A small fenced area north of the carriage shed and east of the dairy previously contained a hot walker. To the north of the dairy is a one-story corncrib, which also dates to Ca. 1913. East of the corncrib is a rectangular, two-story bank barn, which was added about the same time as the dairy and carriage shed.

The expanse to the east of the stable complex contains two large adjoining pastures. Trees grow along the majority of fence line along the north and east edges of the pastures and shield portions of the property from the two adjacent highways. Along the north edge, a break in vegetation enables views to and from U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway near its intersection with State Route 235/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A line of trees, mostly consisting of Eastern red cedars and sweet gums, grows inside the south fence line of the adjoining pastures. A wood frame shed, dating to the late 1980s, stands along this tree line.

South of the adjoining pastures is an outdoor riding ring, adapted in the 1990s from a polo arena created Ca. 1959. Several wooden viewing platforms exist along the western edge of the ring while three sycamores grow at its southwestern corner. East of the riding ring is a large open field. Mature trees grow along its eastern fence line, shielding it from traffic along State Route

235/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A former road trace that once provided access to State Route 235/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway remains visible between the riding ring and southernmost fence line of the adjoining pastures.

A fenced area west of one of the large adjoining pastures contains three rectangular run-in sheds constructed Ca. 1996. To its west, a stream extends through a strip of dense vegetation. South of the run-in sheds, a portion of the stream passes through a culvert, dating to the 1990s and situated beneath a wooden crossing. The crossing leads to a small but hilly pasture that rises to the west. The Otis Tufton Mason House is visible in the distance atop the hill.

Otis Tufton Mason House – Situated on a hill south of the Sharpe Stable Complex is an L-shaped, two-story frame building. The architecture of this unoccupied residence reflects its three stages of construction throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. Boxwood and Leyland cypress trees grow along the north and west façades of the house while a southern magnolia and two locust trees exist near the building's southeast corner. The landscape surrounding the building is mostly overgrown with tall grasses. Fencing encloses the residence and its immediate landscape.

Two 1970s run-in sheds are located near the Otis Tufton Mason House to its south and southwest. A paddock to the north and west of the house contains vegetation that inhibits views of the nearby stable and its attached indoor riding arena. This paddock, however, provides access the stable complex via the concrete bridge near its northwestern corner. Two additional paddocks exist to the west of this intermediary space.

Parcel 6: In the southeast corner of Woodlawn, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association owns 5.74 acres straddling State Route 235/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. The land to the west of the highway contains a small residence built in the 1980s, which the Association leases. A one-story garage constructed in 1983 exists to the southwest of the residence. Trees buffer the north, west, and south sides of the property and prevent views of the adjoining South Parcel owned by the NTHP. However, the entrance to George Washington's Gristmill and Distillery on the eastern side of State Route 235/Mount Vernon Memorial Highway is visible from the gravel drive of the residence.

The entrance drive and parking lot define the area at the northern end of the gristmill site. A paved path along the southern edge of the entrance drive extends through the landscape. It provides access to the site's various buildings and landscape features while looping back to the eastern side of the parking lot.

The first building that visitors encounter along the entrance path is the one-story, wood-frame miller's house, erected from 1932 to 1933 in the Colonial Revival-style on the site of the original eighteenth-century building. The house, which includes a rear addition constructed in 1970, serves as a gift shop and employee break room. South of the building is a lawn with a vegetable and herb garden plot.

From the miller's house, the path leads to the gristmill, reconstructed from 1932 to 1933 on the foundation of the original late-eighteenth-century building. Situated on a hillside, the stone, rectangular building rises three-and-one-half stories on its south elevation and two-and-one-half on its north elevation.

A headrace constructed about the same time as the gristmill, enters the building's north elevation through an arched opening. A wooden fence exists on the west side of the approximately 10' wide channel. While the portion of the headrace nearest the gristmill is constructed of sandstone, the northern three-quarters of the structure are made of concrete poured in 2001.

From the south elevation of the gristmill, the brick path leads to a sandstone bridge that crosses the tailrace. Constructed in 1933, the tailrace exits the building through an arched opening and terminates at Dogue Creek, which borders the south end of the parcel. Along the creek are two wooden benches set beneath the canopy of several mature deciduous trees.

After the sandstone bridge, the brick path extends north around the east façade of the gristmill. The hilly area near the northeastern corner of the gristmill contains a grouping of deciduous shrubs and small flowering trees. On the eastern side of the path is a lawn area with several picnic tables set beneath the canopy of two large sycamore trees. From the picnic area, the path continues north between the distillery and restrooms.

The two-story distillery was constructed with sandstone blocks and hand-hewn timbers between 2005 and 2007 on the archeological site of George Washington's original late eighteenth-century distillery. A wooden flume extends along the southern façade of the distillery and continues up the adjacent hill where it connects with the tailrace. To the east of the distillery is a small restroom facility for visitors. The path between the two buildings extends northwest and reconnects with the parking lot. The majority of land on the eastern edge of the parcel remains heavily wooded.

History: *Development of George Washington's Gristmill Operation*

The land that now composes Woodlawn was originally part of George Washington's vast Mount Vernon estate. An innovative, enterprising, and successful farmer, Washington developed and supervised a complex agricultural operation at Mount Vernon, which totaled over 6,000 acres at the time of his death in 1799.¹ During his life, Washington's estate was divided into five contiguous farms: Mansion House Farm, where Mount Vernon was located; Union Farm on the Potomac River to the west; Muddy Hole Farm, inland to the north; River Farm on the river to the east; and Dogue Run Farm, the property which became Woodlawn, to the northwest.²

In the 1760s, Washington aimed to make Mount Vernon more self-sufficient by cultivating wheat instead of tobacco as his staple crop. Washington thus replaced the deteriorated gristmill, possibly built by his father, Augustine, between 1735 and 1736. Washington's new larger stone merchant mill was constructed from 1770 to 1771.³ The new mill not only enabled him to grind the grain produced on the Mount Vernon plantation, but also that of neighboring farmers.⁴

In addition to the gristmill, Washington built a house for the miller in 1771 and, at a later date, a cooperage to supply barrels for the mill.⁵ In 1771, Washington attempted to solve the chronic lack of water that plagued the earlier mill by diverting the water from Piney Branch into Dogue Run above the mill's headrace. The additional water enabled Washington to operate the new mill for longer periods enabling the production of additional flour for the export market.⁶

In 1797, the final components to his gristmill property were constructed after a farm manager at Mount Vernon convinced him to replace the existing small two-still operation with a larger five-still distillery.⁷ Washington believed that a large commercial distillery located beside the gristmill promised additional revenue from the sale of spirits, while the byproducts from the distillery operation would provide excellent food for fattening hogs and cattle penned at the site.⁸

¹ Gardiner Hallock, Esther White, and Amanda Didden, "George Washington's Gristmill," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2003), 9.

² Michael C. Henry and Penelope S. Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, vol. I, III vols. (Bridgeton, New Jersey: Prepared by Watson & Henry Associates for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2004), 8.

³ Hallock, *et al.*, 9.

⁴ *George Washington's Diaries*, Vol. 3: 59. Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, "George Washington's Gristmill," 9.

⁵ "George Washington's Grist Mill," Ca. 1941, 3. Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, "George Washington's Gristmill," 9.

⁶ Hallock, *et al.*, "George Washington's Gristmill," 9.

⁷ *George Washington's Papers*, Vol. 35: 352-4. Referenced in Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, "George Washington's Gristmill," 9.

⁸ *Ibid.*

Records show that all phases of the operation initially proved successful and that the mill was producing 11,000 gallons of whiskey a year at its peak. By 1799—the year Washington died—the combined operations at the gristmill and distillery had become the most profitable of all of Washington's pursuits at his Mount Vernon plantation.⁹

The Lewises' Inheritance and Beginning of Woodlawn

In his 1799 will, Washington called for nearly 2000 acres of his Mount Vernon estate to be subdivided for his stepdaughter, Eleanor “Nelly” Custis Parke Lewis, and her husband, Lawrence Lewis. The portion of the estate outlined in the will encompassed parts of Washington’s Dogue Run Farm, including his recently completed gristmill, miller’s house, and distillery.¹⁰

Washington, who had set aside sufficient funds to construct a large plantation home for the couple, selected the location for the building on a highpoint known as Grey’s Hill that he believed it was “an excellent site for a gentleman’s seat.”¹¹ In addition, Washington chose Dr. William Thornton, the first architect of the U.S. Capitol, to devise a plan for the home.¹² Along with the mansion, the plan would include outbuildings, such as a smokehouse, dairy, necessary, and an ice house. Washington, however, never saw the plan realized as he died in December 1799.

Despite Washington’s death, work on the house proceeded. On March 8, 1800, Mrs. Anna Maria Brodeau Thornton, wife of Dr. Thornton, explained in her diary that her husband was “out all Friday morning with Mr Lewis to see the situation on which he is going to build on the Mt Vernon Estate—and to mark the trees he ought to cut down, &c.”¹³ Although no original drawings of the house survive, Thornton played a significant role in the design and construction of Woodlawn.

In July 1800, Mrs. Thornton wrote: “Dr. T. has given him [Mr. Lewis] a plan for his house. He has a fine situation, all in woods, from which he will have an extensive and beautiful view.”¹⁴ While Dr. Thornton was responsible for the

⁹ Mount Vernon Ledgers, 1797-1801. Referenced in Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, “George Washington’s Gristmill,” 9.

¹⁰ Craig Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*. (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, January 1998), 16.

¹¹ George Washington, “A Map of General Washington’s Farm of Mount Vernon from A Drawing Transmitted by the General” (London: W. J. & J. Richardson, 1801), Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington D.C., <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3882m.ct000367>. Quoted in Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 15.

¹² Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 16.

¹³ Anna Marie Thornton, Diary, March, 8, 1800, Thornton Papers, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Quoted in Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 17.

¹⁴ Thornton, Diary, July 4, 1800. Referenced in Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 18.

main design of Woodlawn, it is probable that another builder supervised the actual construction. A contract between Isaac McLain and Lawrence Lewis called for the carpenters and “Joiners Work of a House which said Lewis is now about to build on his Site call'd Woodlawn.”¹⁵

British painter and landscape artist William Russell Birch, who visited the home during its construction, later recalled that “the two wings which were handsome elevations” were completed although work on the main part of the house had been halted due to “a defect in the plan of the architect.”¹⁶ Birch also noted that the problem resulting from the building being situated too close to the slope of the hill on the river side of the mansion was soon corrected so that construction could proceed.¹⁷ Accordingly, the Lewises lived in the north wing of the mansion until the completion of main block in late 1805.¹⁸

While Thornton designed the house, it appears that Eleanor was actively interested in the landscape design at Woodlawn. This interest was perhaps due to her exposure to the art of gardening while growing up in the Washington household. At Woodlawn, Eleanor’s own garden was located west of the house. Although no plans or drawings of the garden exist, correspondence reveals her affinity for specific plants, such as Carolina yellow jessamine and the multiflora rose. Correspondence also indicates how bad weather conditions often prevented trees in the orchard from fruiting.¹⁹

Throughout the early nineteenth century, Woodlawn was a plantation that relied heavily on farming and an agrarian economy to produce the necessary revenue to support the lifestyle of the Lewises.²⁰ It is possible that two barns located near Woodlawn Mansion, including a brick one to the northwest and wooden one to the southeast may have housed livestock.²¹ While Lawrence Lewis spent much time managing the plantation at Woodlawn, he also dedicated time to another plantation he owned in present-day Clarke County, Virginia, called Audley.²²

¹⁵ Lawrence Lewis, manuscript agreement, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C. Referenced in Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 18.

¹⁶ William Russell Birch, *The Life of William Russell Birch, Enamel Painter*, manuscript, Philadelphia Free Library,

¹⁷ Quoted in Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 18.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid, 21.

²⁰ The location of Nelly’s garden was on property now owned by Fort Belvoir. Constance A. Webster, “Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn,” in *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, Vol. II (Bridgeton, New Jersey: Prepared by Webster Associates, Landscape Architects, for Watson & Henry Associates, 2004), 5.

²¹ United States Population Census, 1820 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration). Referenced in Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 20.

²² Leslie Plant Mayer, *Woodlawn Historical Site, Mount Vernon, Virginia* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia, June 1981).

²³ United States Population Census, 1820 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration). Referenced in Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 21.

As time passed, Woodlawn plantation became a financial burden as it could not produce enough crops to support its population. Similar to other plantations in Virginia, years of heavy cultivation had depleted the soils at Woodlawn, which forced Lewis to search for new revenue-producing activities. This situation also affected the gristmill and distillery operation, which had ceased operating by about 1815.²³ Accordingly, Lewis began growing hay and importing merino sheep, while considering the prospect of raising race horses.²⁴ Still, funds remained scarce and food often was shipped from Lewis's other plantation at Audley to feed the vast numbers of slaves still toiling to make Woodlawn successful.²⁵

On May 20, 1820, the Lewises deeded Woodlawn to their son, Lorenzo, with the stipulation that he could take possession of the property in 1826 upon his twenty-third birthday. At the time of the deed, Charles Calvert Stuart became legal trustee of the property.²⁶ By about 1827, Lorenzo had begun assuming the responsibility from his father of running the plantation. Lorenzo and his wife, Ester Maria Coxe, then moved to Woodlawn for a brief period. Unhappy with farming at Woodlawn, Lorenzo wrote to his father in November 1828:

“soy Beans turned out very badly I only made 18 bushels and a half 13 of which sold for one dollar and the rest for [] cents owing to this vile clay soil which burnt them up this makes me sick of farming the little I make the (ewes) have eaten half up – I have every disposition to be active and industrious, but really when I think of the prospect for me, a young man on this place, it puts me out of all hearts. I know that if I was at audley I would make something handsome for myself and you too – mother will get everything for the use of the house hold, and can't feel otherwise than mistress...”²⁷

Lorenzo's request was heard and he soon moved with his wife to Audley. Still, Eleanor and Lawrence continued living at Woodlawn until 1839 when Lawrence died.²⁸ Following her husband's death, Eleanor relocated to live with Lorenzo and Ester at Audley.²⁹ Although the Lewis family was no longer physically located at Woodlawn, twenty-nine slaves and four free white persons remained at the plantation in 1840. Twelve of the slaves were under 10 years old at this

²³ Hallock, *et al.*, 6.

²⁴ Eleanor Parke Custis, Letter to Elizabeth Bordley Gibson, March 23, 1835, Mount Vernon Ladies Association, Mount Vernon, VA. Referenced in Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 21.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, “Deed Books,” Fairfax County Circuit Court, Fairfax, Virginia, S-2:169.

²⁷ Lorenzo Lewis letter to Major Lawrence Lewis, November 9, 1828. Transcribed in Woodlawn Archives. Quoted in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 15.

²⁸ Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 15.

²⁹ Dorothy Troth Muir, *Potomac Interlude: The Story of Woodlawn Mansion and the Mount Vernon Neighborhood, 1846-1943* 1971, 33.

time, and the four free white persons included two children less than 5 years, a male between 40 and 49 years, and a female between 30 and 39 years. It is probable that the free white persons were an overseer family.³⁰

The Troth-Gillingham Company's Acquisition of Woodlawn and Establishment of a Quaker Settlement

In 1840, Lorenzo Lewis perhaps first attempted to sell Woodlawn, which had been deserted by the Lewis family as a home and was no longer productive as a plantation. At the time, he advertised it for sale in the *National Intelligencer*, still hoping to retain the house. The ad explained: "The subscriber would prefer, if the purchaser is willing, retaining the house and from 200-250 acres of land around it..."³¹

On April 29, 1846, Lorenzo again offered Woodlawn for sale by placing an advertisement in the *Alexandria Gazette*. The advertisement described the house and the greater property as follows:

"2,030 acres of land...more than one thousand acres of which are woods, with a quantity of fine ship timber, tanners bark &c. There are on the estate a large brick barn, cornhouse, sheds, etc. Also a large stone mill upon the creek with one pair of wheat burrs and one pair of country rollers. The dwelling house is not surpassed by any in Virginia in construction, style of finish, and situation, being on a high hill in a grove of fine oaks, commanding a beautiful view of the river in front. It is also a healthy situation.

The house is built of brick, with freestone sills and lintels to the windows and doors; coping of the basement also of stone, slate roof, two stories high, four rooms on a floor, spacious cellar under the house, portico in front paved with marble and confined by freestone; all the outbuildings of brick connected with the main building by spacious corridors, namely kitchen, washroom, library, and servants hall, which again, by a brick wall, connects with the dairy and meat house, all built of the best material in the best manner.

...

³⁰ United States Federal Census, "6th (1840) Census of the United States" (Online database. Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., Provo, Utah, 1840), Sixth Census of the United States, 1840, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., <http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen>.

³¹ *National Intelligencer*, May 16, July 25, and August 8, 1840. Transcribed in Woodlawn Archives. Quoted in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 15.

Nine hundred acres of the tract are cleared and have been under cultivation at different times, part of it limed for as a manure, the soil is particularly well suited; several good meadows, with constant streams of water through them which makes it admirably adapted to grazing.

Close to the dwelling house is a never-failing well of the purest water besides two others on the place, and several springs,--one of the latter a strong chalybeate.

...

This place offers to those fond of field sports and good living peculiar advantages. Deer are abundant on the land and the Dogue Creek and Potomac River affords the finest fish and wild fowl among which the famous canvass-back duck abounds.

There is a growing crop of wheat, corn and oats planted. It can be divided into small farms.”³²

A less favorable description of the property at the time of its sale, written many years later, depicted a much different scene at Woodlawn:

“...the entire domain of this estate, having been almost entirely neglected through many years, presented a most forlorn appearance. Only here and there a patch of ground was under cultivation – not a handful of grass seed was sown, not a ton of hay cut. The fields were overgrown with sedge, brambles, sassafras and cedars, and all traces of fencing had disappeared. Not a white man was living on an acre of it. Only a few superannuated slaves remained in some rickety cabins, and these were subsisting on products from a farm in another country.”³³

While no one made bids at the time of the advertisement, Delaware Valley Quakers Joseph and Chalkley Gillingham entered an agreement in November 1846 to purchase Woodlawn.³⁴ Before finalizing the transaction, Lorenzo Lewis passed away in 1847. In order to clear the title and conclude the sale, it was necessary for Lewis’ widow and executrix, Ester, to file a lawsuit in Chancery Court against the heirs of Woodlawn trustee, Charles Calvert Stuart. Because

³² George White, “Sale This Day,” *Alexandria Gazette*, April 29, 1846. Quoted in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 16.

³³ William H. Snowden, *Some Old Historical Landmarks of Virginia and Maryland Described in a Hand-Book for the Tourist Over the Washington, Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Railroad*, 1901, quoted by Dorothy Troth Muir, *Potomac Interlude: The Story of Woodlawn Mansion and The Mount Vernon Neighborhood, 1846-1943*, 1971, 34. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 15.

³⁴ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, “Deed Books,” N-3:102; Chalkley Gillingham, “Co-operative Emigration--The Woodlawn Settlement of Fairfax County, Va.,” *The Daily State Journal*, November 25, 1871 (Evening edition), 1.

Stuart had never officially conveyed the title to then-underage Lorenzo following an 1820 deed of trust, his heirs held legal title to the property until formally cleared through the courts.³⁵ On August 26, 1848, Chalkley Gillingham, along with Jacob Troth of New Jersey, Lucas Gillingham of Fairfax County, and Paul Hillman Troth (son of Jacob), also of Fairfax County, finalized the sale with grantors Lawrence B. Taylor, a county clerk-appointed commissioner, and Ester Lewis.³⁶

The Gillinghams and Troths formed the Troth-Gillingham Company, a Quaker-owned organization that supplied ships timber and tanning bark to the Philadelphia market.³⁷ At the time, Philadelphia shipyards were devoid of shipbuilding materials because virgin forests in Pennsylvania and New Jersey were becoming depleted. Thus, the company found Woodlawn attractive because much of its property contained a virgin forest with old-growth oaks.³⁸

The old-growth timber at Woodlawn was especially valuable because timber rights and harvesting of oaks for shipbuilding by the Troth-Gillingham Company contributed to the land's affordability and readiness for farming by purchasers of smaller tracts.³⁹ In addition to its economic potential, the Gillingham and Troth families saw that, if they provided Woodlawn's acreage for farmland to other like-minded families, the property offered a setting to form the genesis of a Quaker community.⁴⁰ Staunchly abolitionist, they intended for the settlement at Woodlawn to operate successfully through free labor and sought to prove, in a Southern, slave-holding state, the capability of achievement in farming without the use of slaves.⁴¹

After purchasing the Woodlawn property, the Quakers initially began using the mansion for their meeting for worship, for a school, and as a home base for arriving settlers.⁴² While the Quakers found new uses for Woodlawn Mansion, they abandoned Washington's former gristmill, which had fallen into disrepair when they acquired the property. Local oral histories indicate that neighboring farmers gathered the stones from Washington's ruined mill to use in the

³⁵ Fairfax County, "Chancery Records Case CFF98X," 1847, Fairfax County Circuit Court Historic Records, Fairfax, Virginia.

³⁶ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Books," O-3:331.

³⁷ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 21.

³⁸ Muir, *Potomac Interlude*, 36-7.

³⁹ Martha Claire Catlin, *Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2009), 12.

⁴⁰ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 21.

⁴¹ John Lee Frisbee III, *The Woodlawn Historic District Including Woodlawn Mansion, Pope-Leighey House, Washington's Grist Mill, Grand View, Woodlawn Baptist Church, Woodlawn Friends' Meeting House*, Planning (Fairfax, Virginia: Fairfax Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission, 1969), Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library, 5.

⁴² Catlin, *Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 12

foundations of their barns.⁴³ The Quakers built a new mill two miles south of Woodlawn at the village of Accotink.⁴⁴ Between 1850 and 1859, they developed the Accotink Turnpike, which provided access between the village and their settlement at Woodlawn.⁴⁵

After purchasing Woodlawn in the late 1840s, the Troths and Gillinghams began subdividing the property and selling one and two hundred acre plots to other Quakers from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, which resulted in a steady influx of settlers at Woodlawn.⁴⁶ In addition, they sold lands from the parcel to many free African Americans, including members of the Holland and Quander Families. In November 1848, the remaining property was divided between Chalkley Gillingham and Lucus Gillingham, and Jacob Troth and Paul Hillman Troth.⁴⁷

The Gillinghams then acquired land north and west of what became the Pole Road⁴⁸ while the land south and east, which included Woodlawn Mansion, became the property of the Troths.⁴⁹ The seven-acre mill complex composed a portion of property held in common. In December 1848, Paul Hillman Troth moved into the mansion with his family.⁵⁰ Accordingly, the Quakers temporarily moved the school and meeting to the former miller's house originally constructed as part of Washington's gristmill operation.⁵¹

On March 25, 1850, the property that Jacob Troth and his son Paul Hillman Troth held in common was divided so that Paul Hillman Troth received full ownership of 539 acres, and Jacob Troth received two separate lots totaling 355 acres.⁵² On April 2, 1850, a mortgaged fifty percent share of the property was transferred to John Mason.⁵³ Soon after, on April 9, Paul Hillman Troth and his wife sold their interest in the 539 acres to John Mason.⁵⁴

⁴³ Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, "George Washington's Gristmill," 10.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ The current U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway correlates with this road although realignments have occurred over time. Mayer, *Woodlawn Historical Site*.

⁴⁶ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 11.

⁴⁷ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Books," O-3:396, November 17, 1848. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 18.

⁴⁸ "The Pole Road (also known as the National Road) was built by the Quakers to get from their farms to Major Lewis's Road, which formed the southern boundary of the Woodlawn Estate and which was also known as the King's Highway or the Pincushion Road...The Toll Pike, Built by the Quakers by 1859, at least partially follows the route of U.S. 1." Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn."

⁴⁹ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Books," O-3:396, November 17, 1848. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 18.

⁵⁰ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Books," O-3:396, November 17, 1848; Muir, *Potomac Interlude*, 54. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 18.

⁵¹ Catlin, *Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 4.

⁵² Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Books," O-3:329, March 25, 1850. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 18.

⁵³ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Book," O-3:332, April 2, 1850. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 18.

Around this time, Eleanor Lewis visited her former home and described some of the changes that had occurred in the Woodlawn landscape, probably in the vicinity near the mansion. She wrote:

“...you could not recognise it *now*. ... All the trees, the hedge, the flower knot, my precious Agnes’s Grove, the tall pine Washington, *all gone*, in front a few trees & vines, but sweet recollections ‘linger there still.’”⁵⁵

Unfortunately, little else is known about changes the Quakers made to the landscape immediately surrounding the mansion. Still, it is likely that the most dramatic changes at Woodlawn occurred throughout its greater acreage as the Quakers cleared large tracts for agricultural and lumber needs, divided the land into small farms, and constructed new roads for connectivity.

Development of the Quaker Meetinghouse, a Crossroads Community, and Subsequent Changes

While the Quakers initially used Woodlawn Mansion and then the former miller’s house at George Washington’s Gristmill as sites for their meeting, a permanent home for the burgeoning group was essential. About 1851, they built a single-cell meetinghouse on a parcel donated from farmland owned by Chalkley Gillingham.⁵⁶ Around this time, the Quakers likely established their burial ground adjacent to the meetinghouse and several cart roads.⁵⁷ Following the construction of the meetinghouse, its form evolved, including an addition that nearly doubled the building between 1866 and 1869. The meetinghouse’s increase in size to accommodate greater attendance suggests that the Quaker settlers relatively quickly overcame setbacks, such as property devastation, caused by the Civil War. By the 1870s, the Woodlawn and Accotink Road branched north past the meetinghouse to serve residents in a crossroads community that fostered small homes with garden plots and farms ranging from five to twenty acres.⁵⁸

It is likely that numerous human interactions occurred well into the twentieth century on the crossroads land adjacent to the Quaker Meetinghouse because of its strategic location in a rural community where agricultural activity and social

⁵⁴ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, “Deed Book,” O-3:361, April 9, 1850. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 18.

⁵⁵ Patricia Brady, ed., “Letter from Eleanor Custis Lewis to Elizabeth Bordley Gibson, 16 March 1851,” in *George Washington’s Beautiful Nelly* (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1991), 260.

⁵⁶ Catlin, *Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 4.

⁵⁷ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 22.

⁵⁸ Martha Claire Caitlin, *The Woodlawn Crossroads Parcel as a Historic Property (unpublished Draft Manuscript)*. (Gum Springs Historical Society, March 25, 2011), 3.

interaction depended on horse and buggy.⁵⁹ This perhaps contributed to the construction of a run-in horse shed northeast of the meetinghouse sometime during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Members of the Woodlawn Friends Meeting have continued using the meetinghouse into the twenty-first century for their gatherings although the horse shed now serves as storage space. The meetinghouse retains many of its original features, although the shed was reconstructed according to preservation standards in 2008 after being destroyed nearly a decade earlier by Hurricane Floyd.⁶⁰

The Mason Family, Otis Tufton Mason House, and the Baptist Community at Woodlawn; The Wood Family and Grand View

After purchasing Woodlawn from the Quakers in 1850, John Mason moved into the mansion with his wife Rachel and their four children. Some years earlier, the Masons had relocated from New Hampshire to New Jersey, where they worked with the Quakers in the lumber business. Subsequently, they purchased additional land from Jacob Troth and eventually acquired almost half of Woodlawn's original acreage.⁶¹ It is unknown whether the Masons were responsible for constructing what has become known as the Otis Tufton Mason House or whether the oldest parts of the structure already existed when they acquired the property.

The Masons were part of a devout Baptist community that, similar to the Quakers, criticized the use of slaves, employed only free labor, and aided the free black population in education and landholding opportunities.⁶² The Masons were deeply religious and organized in their home a Baptist Sabbath School. They also founded one of the first free, public libraries in the state of Virginia within Woodlawn Mansion.⁶³ The Masons' home was the social center of the neighborhood, especially for the Baptist congregation.⁶⁴

Although the Masons were respected and sociable members of the community, they either were unable or uninterested in maintaining the Woodlawn property in a fashionable manner. A visitor during the Civil War reported:

“The place and grounds bear evidence of former elegance, but are now much out of repair, and unfortunately in the possession of a family both pecuniarily and aesthetically unable to keep them in order. For anyone

⁵⁹ Caitlin, *The Woodlawn Crossroads Parcel*, 3.

⁶⁰ Catlin, *Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 1.

⁶¹ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 22.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 20.

who has a love of the beautiful, and would have a care for the house and grounds, this residence would be a treasure. The war, over, I would be the happiest man in Virginia if I owned that place.”⁶⁵

During the Civil War, Woodlawn was in the midst of troop and guerilla activity. In 1861, Union troops occupied the Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse, using it as the headquarters of the Pickett guard. When the Confederate army invaded Pennsylvania in July 1863, the Union troops in the area were called north. This situation left the residents vulnerable to the small bands of Confederate soldiers who were roaming the area, stealing horses, and conscripting men. In October 1863, the Confederate troops directly raided Woodlawn, stealing four horses and several men. John Mason’s son, William, then about 22 years old was one of those captured, although he was released unharmed shortly thereafter. Still, another Confederate raid on Woodlawn for horses occurred July 1864.⁶⁶

Soon after the Civil War, three of the Masons’ sons—Ebenezer, William, and Otis Tufton—received farms adjacent to Woodlawn. On January 1, 1865, Otis purchased sixty-three acres south of the Old Mill Road. He and his wife, Sallie, built or expanded a house on the property for occasional use.⁶⁷ Ebenezer’s tract was north of the Old Mill Road, opposite Otis’s property, while William’s tract was north and east of the Pole Road.⁶⁸

In 1867 and 1869, the Mason’s sold a portion of their Woodlawn property to Quaker Joseph Mosher Wood and his wife, Elizabeth Townsend Wood.⁶⁹ An account by the Woods’ daughter recalled her family relocating to Virginia for a period after the Civil War to help found a school for African Americans.⁷⁰ Wood likely constructed their Grand View home at Woodlawn in 1869 yet tradition and past research have suggested that Jacob M. Troth erected it in 1859.⁷¹ Although the Woods sold their Grand View property to Martha, Hannah, Lydia, and Sarah McPherson of Alexandria in February 1870, it is probable that they occasionally returned to Woodlawn for the primary purpose of aiding in the founding of schools for African Americans during the early days of Reconstruction.⁷²

⁶⁵ Jane A. Gunn, *Memorial Sketches of Mr. Moses Gunn*, Chicago, 1889, copied by M.H. Holligan, April 20, 1950, Woodlawn Archives. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 21.

⁶⁶ Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 20.

⁶⁷ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, “Deed Book,” F-4:196-199, January 1, 1865. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 22.

⁶⁸ Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 22.

⁶⁹ Christine Buckman, Christy DeButts, and Tom Fox, eds., *The Journal of Chalkley Gillingham: Friend in the Midst of the Civil War* (Alexandria, Virginia: Alexandria Monthly Meeting, n.d.), 27.

⁷⁰ “U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current [database on-Line]: Levi Townsend,” Ancestry.com, 2012.

⁷¹ Fairfax County, “Deed Books,” K-4:547.

⁷² Fairfax County, “Deed Books,” M-4:297.

In the decade after the Civil War, property ownership and land use continued to change. In 1872, Otis Tufton Mason and his wife Sarah sold a two-acre parcel from their land at Woodlawn to the Trustees for the Woodlawn Baptist Church. The group included Otis Tufton Mason, William H. Mason, Charles Clear, John Haislip, Thomas Williamson, and David T. Frost.⁷³ A formal sanctuary was constructed on the donated around 1872. Subsequently, the library and other services held in Woodlawn Mansion were moved to the new church building.⁷⁴ Around this time, the Baptists established a cemetery adjacent to the sanctuary.⁷⁵

On September 21, 1888, John Mason died at the age of 90, leaving Woodlawn Mansion and sixty-five acres to his wife, Rachel. Their daughters, Mary Hunter and Anna McCullough, each inherited forty acres. Because their three sons had already acquired farm acreage, they were not bequeathed any property. After Rachel Mason died during the spring of 1889, her sons Ebenezer and Otis, acting as the executors of her estate, endeavored to sell Woodlawn and the remaining sixty-five acres.⁷⁶ At this time, there were twenty-five families living on the property surrounding the Masons' that composed the original Woodlawn tract.⁷⁷

Woodlawn under ownership of the New Alexandria Land and River Improvement Company

Since the Mason children were all well-established elsewhere in the country when their parents died, none wished to make a permanent move to Woodlawn and so they decided to sell the mansion in 1892. Because the Mason family recognized the historical importance of the home, they searched for a buyer who would preserve the house. They eventually formed an agreement with Mr. Park Agnew, who acted as an agent for the New Alexandria Land and River Improvement Company. The company planned to build a tourist trolley line from Alexandria to Mount Vernon and Woodlawn, while preserving the house as a memorial to the Lewises. The company also intended to invite historic and civic groups to use Woodlawn Mansion for meetings and as an archive for historic documents.⁷⁸

It was during the company's ownership of Woodlawn that the estate first came to the attention of the American architectural community, which was then immersed in the Colonial Revival Movement. In May 1895, young architect

⁷³ Fairfax County, "Deed Books," Q-4:100.

⁷⁴ The original church no longer remains although a two-story red brick building constructed in the 1970s, as well as a replacement sanctuary attached in 1997, exists in its place. Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 22.

⁷⁵ Catlin, *Woodlawn Quaker Meetinghouse National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, 4.

⁷⁶ Muir, *Potomac Interlude*, 139-140. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 22.

⁷⁷ Mayer, *Woodlawn Historical Site*.

⁷⁸ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 23.

Edward W. Donn, Jr. visited Woodlawn with the Washington Architectural Club and described its state. He wrote:

“...on a Sunday, a dozen of us wheeled down through Alexandria on the gravel road which is now U.S. Route No. 1. After a hot and tiresome ride, we finally arrived at Woodlawn Mansion. We were all astonished at the abandoned look of the place. The shutters were falling apart and everything seemed very dilapidated. However, the brick walls were solid and were not at all out of plumb. Inside, it was not nearly as bad. We immediately began to take measurements and photographs and sketches.”⁷⁹

According to Donn’s recollections, Woodlawn was already in poor condition when a powerful hurricane struck the area the following year, in September 1896. Woodlawn sustained considerable damage as strong hurricane winds blew down trees near the house, badly damaged windows, and tore off part of the roof. Although some repairs to the house were made, the effects of the storm and the bleak financial outlook for the trolley caused the company to abandon its efforts to preserve and transform Woodlawn into a tourist attraction. As New Alexandria Land and River Improvement Company eventually lost interest in the mansion, they offered the property for sale.⁸⁰

The Kester Family and Early Preservation of Woodlawn

On March 26, 1901, Paul Kester, a young and successful New York City playwright, bought the “Woodlawn Mansion House Tract,” including the house and the fifty-four acres surrounding it.⁸¹ The following year, on December 10, 1902, he purchased Otis Mason’s house and its accompanying sixty-one acres.⁸² Soon after purchasing Woodlawn, Kester moved into the mansion with his family, which included: his mother, Harriet; his brother and sister-in-law, Vaughan and Jessie; and sixty cats.⁸³ Perhaps because the Kesters were used to a Bohemian lifestyle and camping out, they were not fazed by the poor state of Woodlawn Mansion, with leaking roof, falling plaster, collapsing stairs, no plumbing, and so forth. The grounds were in no better condition as weeds had overtaken the landscape, the outbuildings had been removed, and the roads had become muddy ruts.⁸⁴

⁷⁹ Edward W. Donn, Jr., “Notes on Woodlawn Mansion,” March 1949, typed ms., Woodlawn Archives. Quoted in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 22-23.

⁸⁰ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 23.

⁸¹ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, “Deed Book,” H-6:283-4. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 23.

⁸² Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, “Deed Book,” L-6:379-385. Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 24.

⁸³ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 24.

⁸⁴ Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 24.

Although the Kester family's ownership was brief, their impact was great. During their four-year residence, the Kester brothers oversaw continuing repairs to the house while they pursued their literary careers, creating an artistic colony on the estate. Vaughan wrote a novel, *The Fortunes of the Landmys*, and Paul composed several plays, including two that made brought actress Julia Marlowe to fame. Marlowe and other playwrights and literati from New York spent long periods in the mansion during the Kesters' tenancy.⁸⁵

While repairing Woodlawn Mansion, the Kesters made several structural and ornamental changes to the main house. Most notably, they raised the wings and hyphens to accommodate the addition of modern conveniences.⁸⁶ In addition to the mansion, the landscape at Woodlawn underwent changes. The lawn was more manicured than previous years and a carriage drive wound around the north side of the house, which had foundation plantings on either side of the entrance. At this time, a straight pathway led to a circle of boxwood, which aligned with the front door on the northwestern façade.⁸⁷ It also appears that the Kesters were responsible for laying out a cedar-lined gravel driveway, which connected Woodlawn with Grand View.⁸⁸

Colonial Revival Changes at Woodlawn under Ownership of Elizabeth Sharpe

On June 13, 1905, Elizabeth Montgomery Sharpe of Pennsylvania purchased Woodlawn from Paul Kester.⁸⁹ About a month later, on August 31, 1905, Sharpe bought 12.89 acres along with Grand View, the house to its south built in 1859 by Jacob M. Troth.⁹⁰ In subsequent years, Sharpe continued to increase her landholdings by purchasing from R.R. Gillingham thirty-four acres on November 1, 1915, and then another 12.68 acres on January 27, 1919.⁹¹ In addition, on July 10, 1921, she purchased from Robert and Annie Berkley a strip of land 20' wide and 460' long described as an outlet road.⁹²

⁸⁵ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 23.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 8.

⁸⁸ Mayer, *Woodlawn Historical Site*.

⁸⁹ Sharpe later developed a friendship with Kester, who rented living space there for a period in 1906 and again in 1912. Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 26.

⁹⁰ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Book," S-6:226-7, August 31, 1905. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 25.

⁹¹ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Book," B-8:597-8, November 1, 1915; K-8:102-3, January 27, 1919. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 26.

⁹² Additional yet minor land transactions occurred. Elizabeth sold 3.11 acres to Daniel Jasper on June 20, 1916, and about 12 acres to Robert Berkley on March 1, 1919. Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Book," W-8:379, June 1919; I-8:415, June 20, 1916; O-8:495, March 1, 1919. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 26.

As the new owner of Woodlawn, Sharpe endeavored to accurately restore the house. In the course of her twenty-year residence, she spent over \$100,000 on the project.⁹³ Elizabeth's source of income appears to have been a trust fund based on the royalties from a coal lease made by her father to Alden Coal Company in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.⁹⁴ In 1915, she hired the Edward W. Donn, Jr., and Waddy Wood to oversee the work. Both were preeminent Washington, D.C. architects designing in the Colonial Revival style.⁹⁵

Donn's restoration work at Woodlawn altered some of Kester's changes that he deemed inappropriate. For example, he suggested that Sharpe tear down the raised areas of the wings and hyphens built by the Kesters because the bricks, windows, and entrances were not in harmony with the rest of the house. In rebuilding these features, Sharpe chose to retain the increased space created by the Kester plan. The alterations of this period are significant examples of Colonial Revival work.⁹⁶

During Sharpe's renovations of the house, she brought architectural elements from the Jamestown Exposition of 1907 for installation at Woodlawn. This included a set of large iron gates that she placed at the estate's entrance located to the west of the mansion.⁹⁷ She had Donn design "the entrance gate posts and the fore court treatment of circular walls surmounted with stone urns" to hold them.⁹⁸ Sharpe made additional changes to the Woodlawn landscape, including the planting of a formal garden patterned on eighteenth-century prototypes and the installation of boxwood in front of the river entrance.⁹⁹

Sharpe also was responsible for constructing a complex of farm buildings on land south of Woodlawn and Grand View adjacent to Otis Tufton Mason's former house. By this time, many of Woodlawn's Quaker neighbors had proven successful in their agricultural endeavors, including timber production and fruit crops. Accordingly, some area farmers also had begun establishing themselves as dairy producers. The shift by local farmers to the economically advantageous field of dairy farming and the advice of a representative from the Department of Agriculture may have influenced Sharpe to construct a dairy, a corncrib, and a large bank barn, on her tract Ca. 1913. It is possible that a family overseeing Sharpe's farm operation resided in the former Otis Tufton Mason house.¹⁰⁰

⁹³ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 24.

⁹⁴ Fairfax County, "Will Books," 10:356-366, Will of Elizabeth Sharpe, January 31, 1917. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 25.

⁹⁵ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 24.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, 24-25.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ Donn, "Notes." Quoted in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 27.

⁹⁹ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 25.

¹⁰⁰ Chittenden *et al.*, *Fairfax County Heritage Resource Management Plan*, Vol. III. III vols. Fairfax, Virginia: Heritage Resources Branch, Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1988, H7-2; Eleanor Gomolinski-Lally, "A Touch of Rural Fairfax Still Exists at Woodlawn Stables," *The South County Chronicle*, November 1, 2005.

As part of the farm complex, Sharpe also constructed a carriage shed Ca. 1913. It was likely that Sharpe was still using horses at the time as a means of transportation as she wrote in a letter to Paul Kester: “The horses being busy in the fields—we persuaded Truxton Dare to take us and bring us back from the train yesterday.”¹⁰¹ By 1915, Sharpe mentioned an “auto” in a letter to Kester.¹⁰² Sharpe’s acquisition of an automobile perhaps instigated the construction of a roughly square block building adjacent to Grand View for use as a garage.

To accommodate her automobile, Sharpe also is credited with constructing a driveway northwest of the house through the woods.¹⁰³ Until about 1918, Sharpe maintained a driveway from Accotink Turnpike to Woodlawn Mansion along nearly the same path as that used during the Lewis period. In 1918, U.S. Route 1 was established at the site of Accotink Turnpike, which instigated Sharpe to establish a new primary entrance drive southwest of Grand View.¹⁰⁴ The driveway extended from U.S. Route 1 west of Grand View up around the mansion to fields north of the house.¹⁰⁵

Following Sharpe’s numerous renovations, Woodlawn had many prospective buyers, among them President and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. Sharpe, however, steadfastly refused all offers.¹⁰⁶ During Sharpe’s ownership of Woodlawn, she only sporadically used the house as a residence, although she did spend three months there from January 12 to April 13, 1924, shortly before dying of pneumonia in June.¹⁰⁷

Changes to the Greater Woodlawn Community

During the period when Elizabeth Sharpe occupied Woodlawn, changes occurred on adjacent land that had composed the eighteenth-century Belvoir Plantation. In 1911, Sharpe and Kester, along with the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, jointly opposed the federal government’s establishment of a children’s reformatory on the grounds of Belvoir. Their opposition prevailed, and Congress transferred the property to the War Department in 1912. Three years later, students at the U.S. Army’s Engineer School began conducting rifle practice and training in pontoon bridge construction on the site.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Elizabeth Sharpe, “Letter from Elizabeth Sharpe to Paul Kester,” October 14, 1915, photocopy at Woodlawn, New York Public Library.

¹⁰³ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 12.

¹⁰⁴ This drive correlates with the current private entrance to the property.

¹⁰⁵ Based on descriptions of a driveway present during the Kester period, it is likely that Sharpe improved, widened, and probably extended a wagon or carriage drive already in place.

¹⁰⁶ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 25.

¹⁰⁷ Mary A. Sharpe, “Letter to Paul Kester,” May 16, 1925, Paul Kester Papers, New York Public Library. Quoted in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 27.

¹⁰⁸ Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 26.

The United States' entry into World War I precipitated the first construction at the Belvoir site in 1918, which entailed a temporary cantonment named Camp A. A. Humphreys. At the time, additional land in the Woodlawn neighborhood was acquired by purchase and condemnation. As descendants of the Quaker settlers, the African American community members, and other like-minded settlers who purchased tracts from Quaker settlers were forced to move elsewhere the composition of the neighborhood greatly changed.¹⁰⁹

In 1918, Sharpe explained how the changes affected her landholdings at Woodlawn:

“...the line of Camp Humphreys is to be the hedge between the Cox place and Woodlawn all of my land from the drive through the former Troth place to the Quaker church is to be taken...you know what detriment this would be to the mansion, the danger of marauders & etc.”¹¹⁰

In June 1919, Sharpe was required to sell 3.38 acres to the United States of America to become part of Camp Humphreys.¹¹¹ By 1919, the camp had expanded from its original 1,500 acres to approximately 6,000 acres. In 1935, the installation's name changed from Fort Humphreys to Fort Belvoir. An expansion of another 3,000 acres at the beginning of World War II decimated the historic African-American community at Woodlawn.¹¹²

The expansions of Camp Humphreys and Fort Belvoir affected the residential and agrarian character of property surrounding Woodlawn as military activity replaced farms. Existing circulation patterns also changed as army engineers discontinued using the segment of the Woodlawn and Accotink Road that extended in front of the Quaker Meetinghouse directly to Route 1. Their realignment of the road created Woodlawn Road, which bypassed the meetinghouse and provided direct access to the army housing development at Fort Belvoir.¹¹³

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Elizabeth Sharpe, “Letter to Paul Kester,” October 18, 1918, Paul Kester Papers, New York Public Library. Quoted in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 27.

¹¹¹ Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, “Deed Book,” N-8:187, July 10, 1921. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 27.

¹¹² Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 26.

¹¹³ Caitlin, *The Woodlawn Crossroads Parcel*, 9-11.

Additional Colonial Revival Changes at Woodlawn under Ownership of Oscar and Bertha Underwood

About a year after Elizabeth Sharpe's death, Senator and Mrs. Oscar Underwood of Alabama purchased Woodlawn in June 1925. Underwood had served as Majority Leader of both houses of Congress and had been Woodrow Wilson's chief rival for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1912. He refused Wilson's offer of the vice presidency and, in 1924, again sought his party's nomination for the presidency. However, his outspoken opposition to the Ku Klux Klan undermined his candidacy and he retired from the senate in 1927.¹¹⁴

In retirement at Woodlawn, Underwood devoted himself primarily to writing the story of his political career in *The Drifting Sands of Party Politics*, published in 1928. The Senator and his wife, Bertha, continued the restoration work begun by Woodlawn's previous owners, hiring Waddy Wood to work on the dining room in the south hyphen. Wood also provided Mrs. Underwood with a landscape plan for the grounds.¹¹⁵

A newspaper article indicates how Mrs. Underwood was actively engaged in gardening around the estate. The author explained:

“Here Mrs. Underwood walked with me yesterday. Pointed out the apple trees, ‘valued for their lovely blossoms even if they never bore an apple.’ The pear trees laden with fruit ripening in the July sun; bushes of Japonica and Lilacs and at the end of the walk on each side of the house two big bushes of weeping boxwood...”¹¹⁶

From 1925 to 1929, a formal garden featuring brick paths and a fountain was developed in a space immediately north of the mansion.¹¹⁷ Bertha also planted small groups of Osage orange trees in several locations around the estate.¹¹⁸

Although Underwood was no longer a member of either body, both the House and Senate adjourned in honor of the Senator when he died at Woodlawn in January 1929. Subsequently, Mrs. Underwood lived in the house periodically until 1935 when she rented it for two years to Secretary of War and Mrs. Harry

¹¹⁴ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 25.

¹¹⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁶ Helen Forman Kerchner, "Woodlawn—Washington's Gift", a news article printed during Mrs. Underwood's tenure at Woodlawn (She is interviewed by the author.) n.p., n.d. Archives of the Garden Club of Virginia, Mss 5.75h67:1. Quoted in Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 9.

¹¹⁷ Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 9-10.

¹¹⁸ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 25.

W. Woodring. During their residence, the house was the scene of many social events and conferences. Mrs. Underwood returned to Woodlawn in 1937, and the house remained in the Underwood family until her death in 1948.¹¹⁹

The Development of George Washington's Gristmill Historical State Park and Subsequent Changes

During the period when the Underwood family owned Woodlawn, the Commonwealth of Virginia purchased a 6.65-acre tract that included the sites of the former gristmill and distillery constructed by George Washington in the late eighteenth century. The purchase, which occurred in 1932, was part of the state's contribution to the national bicentennial celebration of George Washington's birth.¹²⁰

The Commonwealth of Virginia selected the gristmill property because it was identified as the last important George Washington-related site in the state that lacked active preservation efforts.¹²¹ At the time of the sale, all above-ground remains of the original structures had vanished, including the gristmill, miller's house, distillery, well, cooperage, malt kiln, and animal enclosures. The chairman of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Development, W. E. Carson, was charged with the task of reconstructing the original buildings. He selected R.E. Burson, a landscape engineer who was working under him, to lead the archaeological investigations and historical research. In addition, H.J. Eckemode served as the chief historian for the reconstruction.¹²²

The reconstruction of the gristmill and miller's house on original foundations began in 1932 and was completed in 1933. The two buildings, along with the millraces, formed the nucleus of George Washington's Mill Historical State Park. The designs for both reconstructions were based on archaeological and documentary evidence.¹²³ George Washington's Gristmill Historical State Park represents Virginia's first attempt at developing a state park and its first historical state park.¹²⁴

Although drawings to reconstruct the distillery also were developed at the time, the plans never materialized and only the outline of the foundation was delineated with brick paving. At the conclusion of the bicentennial celebration in November 1932, enthusiasm for the project waned and the site was never

¹¹⁹ Ibid, 26.

¹²⁰ George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, *George Washington Slept Here*, (Dramatists Play Service, Inc.: 1944), 254. Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, 10.

¹²¹ Charles Bridgham Hosmer, *Preservation Comes of Age from Williamsburg to the National Trust, 1926-1949*. Vol. I, p. 485. Published for the Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States by the University Press of Virginia, 1981. Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, 10.

¹²² H. J. Eckenrode, "The Dogue Run Mill," 1932. Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, 10.

¹²³ Ibid, 4.

¹²⁴ Ibid, 8.

officially dedicated or opened to the public until 1940. By 1936, the park appears to have been abandoned and newspaper accounts from the period describe the site as "neglected and rotting away, locked and deserted."¹²⁵

Sometime around 1940, the Future Farmers of America (FFA) assumed daily operations of the state park after having recently purchased a thirty-acre parcel of land adjoining park to the north. The FFA was responsible for cleaning up the park and finally opening it to the public.¹²⁶ The FFA continued administering and managing the park until the Commonwealth of Virginia reassumed the responsibility in 1962.¹²⁷

After regaining control of the park from the FFA, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation expanded the miller's cottage to provide a permanent residence for a park ranger.¹²⁸ In 1973, the Commonwealth of Virginia erected a restroom facility just east of the distillery site to serve visitors. Another residence was constructed across Route 235 in 1980 for the assistant superintendent of Mason Neck State Park. Three years later, a garage was added adjacent to the superintendent's house.¹²⁹ Following completion of the garage, the land remained under the control of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation until 1997.¹³⁰

In 1997, the mill was closed as the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union (MVLVA) began renovating the property and excavating the distillery site. By April 2002, the millworks were reconstructed, the miller's house was renovated and transformed into a gift shop, the millraces were restored and expanded, and a new system of brick pathways was integrated into the landscape. Between 2005 and 2007, the distillery was reconstructed at its original location using Colonial era construction techniques. Subsequently, the Commonwealth of Virginia transferred ownership of the property to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.¹³¹

¹²⁵ William E. Carson, "Scrapbooks, 1928-1941," 162. (news clipping) Quoted in Hallock, *et al.*, 11. While not listed among the original six state parks that opened simultaneously in 1936, it predated all other attempts and was the first park in Virginia to be developed specifically to be interpreted as an historic site.

¹²⁶ Future Farmers of America, brochure, n.d. Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, 11.

¹²⁷ "Grist Mill Interpretation Report," 1989. Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, 11.

¹²⁸ Gristmill Topographical Map, 1970. Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, 11.

¹²⁹ *George Washington's Grist Mill Historical State Park Resource Management Plan*, 1990. Referenced in Hallock, *et al.*, 11.

¹³⁰ Hallock, *et al.*, 11.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*

The Woodlawn Public Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation

On August 18, 1948, Judge Paul Brown of the Fairfax Circuit Court approved the sale of Woodlawn by the guardians of Mrs. Bertha Underwood's estate to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission Society, Inc., a Belgian missionary order. The Mission Society planned to use Woodlawn as their world headquarters, in addition to a boy's school. The announcement of the sale motivated a group of individuals to form the Woodlawn Public Foundation (WPF), which was incorporated on September 3, 1948. Led by Armistead Rood and George Maurice Morris, the group aimed to "Save Woodlawn For The Nation" as a monument to the Lewises and their important connection to Mount Vernon and George Washington.¹³²

The WPF then began a nationwide capital campaign to purchase the property. Rood enlisted the help of the newly formed National Council of Historic Sites and Buildings, the first nationwide private preservation organization. In September 1948, he succeeded in appointing David Finley, director of the National Gallery of Art, and Charles C. Wall, superintendent of Mount Vernon, and General Ulysses S. Grant III, president of the National Council of Historic Sites and Buildings, to the Woodlawn Public Trust Committee. All were nationally known figures involved in historic preservation.¹³³

At the time, David Finley was working with General Grant and the National Council to create a new organization, whose goal would be to spearhead national preservation efforts that could not be met by the National Park Service or the National Council. This new organization, to be called the National Trust for Historic Preservation, would be modeled on Great Britain's National Trust. Finley strongly believed that an essential part of the National Trust would be to preserve great and important homes.¹³⁴

In 1948, at the annual meeting of the delegates of National Council, David Finley addressed the Council regarding the need and role of a national trust. He pointed to the efforts of the WPF as an example of the type of preservation battle a national trust would address. Finley asked George Maurice Morris to address the ambitious fund-raising and public relations battles he and the WPF had undertaken, not only to purchase the property in February 15, 1949, but to restore and operate it, as well.¹³⁵

¹³² Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 26.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ibid, 27.

¹³⁵ Ibid; Fairfax County Registry of Deeds, "Deed Book," 699:135. Referenced in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 41.

The WPF's efforts exemplified the purpose for the creation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), which was formally established through an Act of Congress on October 26, 1949. The NTHP accepted Woodlawn as their flagship property as they agreed on August 6, 1951, to lease it for a period of 50 years.¹³⁶ Major provisions of the lease required the NTHP to pay off a portion of the mortgage notes, as well as a number of creditors of the WPF, and "to spend without unnecessary delay a sum not less than \$150,00.00 to renovate and repair the mansion, its dependencies, and out-houses, grounds, walkways and gardens, and maintain same in good repair."¹³⁷ The reputation and stature of the NTHP increased throughout the early 1950s and on April 12, 1957, the WPF conveyed ownership of Woodlawn to them for the sum of one dollar.¹³⁸

Alden Hopkins's Garden Restoration Plan for Woodlawn, Implementation by the Garden Club of Virginia, and Subsequent Changes

In 1953, at the time when the NTHP was leasing Woodlawn, the Garden Club of Virginia (GCVA) allocated funds for the restoration of the gardens. The GCVA hired Alden Hopkins, a landscape architect at Colonial Williamsburg, to serve as the project landscape architect at Woodlawn in cooperation with the NTHP. Hopkins oversaw an archaeological survey at Woodlawn and was aided by Worth Bailey, the curator at Woodlawn, and James Knight, the archaeologist of Colonial Williamsburg.¹³⁹

Christine Hale Martin of the GCVA described the results of the archaeological survey in a typescript:

"Trenches were laid out and excavated to undisturbed soil. One of the first finds proved to be the key feature of the original design. Noting a peculiar planting of tulip poplars and antique hemlock in a curving line south of the mansion, cross-trenching began there and a well formed serpentine road was discovered ... Subsequent trenching and scraping showed the balancing north serpentine entrance under the turf."¹⁴⁰

In addition to archaeology, Hopkins conducted extensive research on the Lewises' occupancy period, which informed and justified many of his design

¹³⁶ Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 30.

¹³⁷ Woodlawn Public Foundation, "Letter to Mrs. Guy Withers," August 30, 1951. Withers Papers, Garden Club of Virginia Collection, The Virginia Historical Society. Quoted in Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 30.

¹³⁸ Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 31.

¹³⁹ "Press Release," Washington, D.C., June 9, from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Archives of the Garden Club of Virginia, Mss3G1673a:14. Referenced in Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 10.

¹⁴⁰ Christine Hale Martin, "Garden Club of Virginia Begins Work on the Grounds at Woodlawn," November 4, 1955, n.p. Archives of the Garden Club of Virginia, Mss3G1673a:14. Quoted in Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 11.

decisions. When reviewing Eleanor Lewis's correspondence, Hopkins encountered references to specific plant materials, such as roses, jessamine, cedars, dogwoods, fruit trees, and so forth, in addition to a knot garden, Agnes' Grove, and a vegetable garden. Unfortunately, there was little information indicating the layout of such landscape features. Hopkins, however, was aware of the location of Eleanor's nineteenth-century garden beyond the entrance forecourt at Woodlawn on property owned by Fort Belvoir.¹⁴¹

As Hopkins had observed rows of daffodils and old hollies growing at the corners of the site when it was still a pasture, he felt that those remnant features indicated the garden's formal style and its axial relationship to the house. He wrote: "As a substitute for this highly developed pleasure garden, I have located the kitchen to the south of the lawn and forecourt. A level stretch normally would have been developed in the vicinity of the kitchen wing as a vegetable garden."¹⁴²

Hopkins thus designed a new garden located south of the forecourt, using Mount Vernon and Tudor Place, the home of Eleanor's sister, as precedents. In his survey, Hopkins:

"...noted the way in which a group of antique cedars shot off at right angle to the mansion on the south and then appeared to pick up in a line extending to the west. This lineup appeared to indicate an old long forgotten fence line. On a survey this line of old cedars was even more evident. It now forms the location of the fence line along part of the south side of the entrance forecourt."¹⁴³

In his design, Hopkins combined references to Eleanor's flower and vegetable garden by incorporating two boxwood parterres containing roses and spaces for growing vegetables. Hopkins intended for the whole garden to be "enframed in peach, cherry, apricot, and other fruit trees."¹⁴⁴ Hopkins formally laid out the garden surrounded by a board fence and gate with a central brick walkway terminating at a new summer house.¹⁴⁵

In addition to designing the formal garden, Hopkins added plants to soften the new visitors' parking lot. At the south end of the parking lot, he designed a gathering space paved in brick and a pathway lined with ornamental plantings that directed visitors to the house. Hopkins located the garden house at the terminus of the formal garden on axis with the path leading from the parking lot.

¹⁴¹ Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 12.

¹⁴² Martin, 3. Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 12.

¹⁴³ Alden Hopkins, "Landscape Design: Restoration of the Gardens and Grounds of Woodlawn Plantation," *Garden Gossip*, 30:3. Quoted in Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 12.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 13.

The path then turned along the forecourt toward the door on the northwest facade and a side entrance to the building.¹⁴⁶ Hopkins's plan also incorporated a design to restore the entire forecourt, which included replacing the gates previously installed by Elizabeth Sharpe.¹⁴⁷

On the northeast side of the mansion, Hopkins's plans reduced the plantings in the Underwood Garden to the boxwood hedges on the exterior of the path.¹⁴⁸ In addition, Hopkins proposed planting clumps of mixed deciduous and evergreen trees in the lawn to the east of the mansion in accordance with gardening books published in the 1770s. He used the trees to frame the house while maintaining the existing vistas. Hopkins also planned semicircular pathways extending from the north and south wings to terminate with a bower to the north and an icehouse to the south.¹⁴⁹

An agreement in December 1955 outlined the GCVA's commitment to restore the gardens and transfer them to the NTHP. The agreement contained certain conditions regarding maintenance, plant replacement, and materials as specified by Hopkins, and the GCVA's supervision of any changes or revisions to the landscape. Subsequently, the NTHP implemented Hopkins's plan in phases, which required some alterations throughout the process.¹⁵⁰

Among the first elements of Hopkins's plan installed at Woodlawn were the serpentine, entrance drives, walks, and flower beds in the forecourt. After the site was prepared and the front brick terrace removed, a washed gravel drive was installed. In the serpentine, a path of gravel with brick and mortar edging was constructed and flower beds were dug. Yew replaced two large English boxwood planted on both sides of the front door.¹⁵¹

As for the formal garden, the west parterre featured dwarf boxwood surrounded by rolled gravel. Roses were planted inside the geometric forms of the boxwood. A double row of fruit trees was planted around the garden and the central path of brick in sand was laid. Gates of white-painted California redwood were placed in three locations: the historical entrance to Eleanor's garden; near the entrance to the parking lot; and at the entrance to the new formal garden. This work was completed in time for Historic Garden Week in 1956.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid, 11.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid, 13.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Ibid, 13-14.

At a meeting in 1957, the GCVA recommended the hiring of a full-time gardener at Woodlawn, in addition to a supervisor, preferably a landscape architect, and a volunteer garden chairman with gardening knowledge. Accordingly, Hopkins served as the supervisor for two years. The construction and planting of the gardens at Woodlawn were completed on November 14, 1958. On May 27, 1960, the GCVA presented the garden to the NTHP.¹⁵³

After Hopkins's death in 1960, the GCVA continued to consult with various landscape architects regarding the Woodlawn landscape. In the 1960s, Ralph E. Griswold, a landscape architect, proposed changes to Hopkins's design. In 1966, Griswold wrote a response addressing criticism the GCVA had received about their restoration work at Woodlawn, which he suggested was due to the fact that Hopkins's design was never fully implemented.¹⁵⁴ In a 1971 report, Griswold made a strong plea for the GCVA to complete Hopkins's plan and recommended they draft a new contract with the NTHP, stipulating the hiring of a full-time gardener.¹⁵⁵

Subsequently, the NTHP hired a horticulturalist, Mr. William Massey, who oversaw some improvements in 1974, including the installation of fruit trees specified in Hopkins's plan. Alterations to the gardens continued throughout the years and, in 1975, the NTHP allocated money to improve the visiting area with lighting, planting, and brick paths.¹⁵⁶ On June 18, 1976, landscape architect Meade Palmer produced plans for the visitor reception area and entrance walk, which brought about the planting of daylilies and flowering trees and the installation of a brick path that was more visible to visitors.¹⁵⁷ With these various changes occurring in the Woodlawn landscape throughout the 1970s, caretaker Emmet Baton managed the property while residing at Grand View. Baton, however, retired in the early 1980s and the NTHP subsequently renovated Grand View into two apartments.¹⁵⁸

During the late 1980s, a project began called "The Greening of Woodlawn," which was intended to improve the landscape design. At this time, the Woodlawn Council and WPF established a set of goals for the property,

¹⁵³ "The Presentation of the Restored Garden at Woodlawn Plantation," Friday, May 27, 1960. Archives of the Garden Club of Virginia, Mss3G1673a Sect.2:13. Referenced in Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 15.

¹⁵⁴ Ralph E. Griswold, "Letter to Mrs. Thomas Thorne," September 15, 1971. Virginia Historical Society, Mss 3G1673a Sec 2, Folder 3. Quoted in Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 15.

¹⁵⁵ Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 16.

¹⁵⁶ James C. Massey, "Letter to Mrs. Thomas W. Murrell, Jr.," October 31, 1975. Virginia Historical Society, Mss 3G1673a Sec 2, Folder 3. Referenced in Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 15.

¹⁵⁷ Mrs. George M. Cochran, Chairman, The Restoration Committee, "Letter to Mr. James Biddle, President, National Trust," November 29, 1976. Virginia Historical Society, Mss 3G1673a Sec 2, Folder 3. Referenced in Webster, "Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn," 16.

¹⁵⁸ Henry and Watson, *Historic Structures and Landscape Report for Woodlawn*, 31.

including: to screen the noise and traffic of Route 1 with a dense planting on the east lawn; to repair brick paths; to add night lighting; to implement a screen of coniferous trees to buffer the nearby proposed Lewis Heights apartments in winter; to enhance the main entry; and to install a seven-foot-high security fence along the Old Mill Road boundary to curb vandalism.¹⁵⁹ Among the other priorities at this time were: beautification of the Underwood Garden with seasonal flowers; repair of brick walks damaged by tree roots and traffic; restoration of the boxwood edging in the rose gardens; incorporating flowering plants to attract visitors in the area around the serpentine; and improving signage throughout the landscape.¹⁶⁰

Throughout the twenty-first century, changes have continued to occur at Woodlawn, such as with the usage of the formal garden designed by Hopkins. About 2010, the Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture began leasing one-and-a-half acres of the formal garden thereby establishing “Arcadia Farm.” Subsequently, a modern shed outbuilding was constructed on this property, in addition to a chicken house and raised planting beds. In addition, fruits and vegetables were planted in the lawn quadrants.

In addition to the change in use of the formal garden at Woodlawn, the twenty-first century has brought about significant alterations to roads within and around the greater property. Around 2011, the U.S. Army began planning to transfer ownership of a 2.8 acre parcel containing a segment of Woodlawn Road to the NTHP. A decade prior, the army had closed Woodlawn Road to base traffic as a security measure after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.¹⁶¹ The NTHP thus integrated the parcel into their Woodlawn property by planning on the site a new public entrance to Woodlawn Mansion.

Since the late 1950s or early 1960s, the entrance to Woodlawn Mansion existed at U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway near the northeast corner of the property where a wooded drive led to the visitor parking lot. In late 2001, Woodlawn Road was disconnected from the Fort Belvoir housing development and subsequently realigned to join the road west of Woodlawn Mansion leading to

the parking lot. The circulation within and around the Woodlawn landscape is anticipated to undergo further changes as plans are underway to realign U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway near the Sharpe Stable Complex.

¹⁵⁹ Webster, “Appendix B: A Report on the Historic Landscape at Woodlawn,” 16-17.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ “New Entrance Proposed for Woodlawn Plantation,” *The Connection Newspapers*, October 26, 2005.

Post-1950s Use of the Sharpe Stable Complex as an Equestrian Facility

While the NTHP endeavored to restore Woodlawn Mansion and its surrounding landscape in the early 1950s, they applied a different management strategy to the parcel on the south side of U.S. Route 1/Richmond Highway. The NTHP maintained an agricultural use for the south parcel, which contained the farm buildings previously constructed during Elizabeth Sharpe's tenure. Sometime in the 1950s, the NTHP began subleasing the property as an equestrian facility. The property retained this usage until the summer of 2014.

The use of the property as an equestrian facility brought about new features in the landscape, including the following: a polo arena constructed in an existing pasture southeast of the stable complex Ca. 1959; a stable was added south of the existing bank barn in 1963, while an indoor riding ring was added several years later; two run-in sheds erected near the former Otis Tufton Mason House in the 1970s; a wood frame shed built in the pasture north of the polo arena in the 1980s; replacement of the polo arena with a new riding ring in the 1990s; three run-in sheds placed in a paddock southeast of the indoor arena Ca. 1996; and the indoor riding ring was replaced and reconstructed in 1997.¹⁶²

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Relocation of the Pope-Leighey House to Woodlawn

During the 1930s, American architect Frank Lloyd Wright began designing affordable middle-class residences, referred to as Usonian. Among these designs was the Pope-Leighey House, constructed in 1940 for journalist Loren Pope. In 1946, Robert and Marjorie Leighey purchased the house from Pope, which was located in Falls Church, Virginia. Subsequently, the residence became known as Pope-Leighey House.¹⁶³

In the early 1960s, plans to expand Highway 66 threatened demolition of the house. Mrs. Leighey thus sought to preserve the building by donating it to the NTHP. While the NTHP considered several sites for the relocation of Pope-Leighey House, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall wrote in a letter to NTHP Chairman Gordon Gray about his preference for the siting at Woodlawn:

“On a knoll above the entrance roadway of the estate, and easily screened by shrubbery from view of the plantation house itself, is a site that is superb for its lighting, direction, topography, and large trees. Nothing

¹⁶² Mayer, *Woodlawn Historical Site*; Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 11.

¹⁶³ Tuminaro, *Woodlawn National Historic Landmark Nomination*, 12.

that we have viewed compares with it for these environmental features. The National Trust is unique in its ability to assure protection for the Frank Lloyd Wright home on these grounds.”¹⁶⁴

Accordingly, in 1964, the NTHP relocated the house to their Woodlawn property in a secluded area north of the mansion. The NTHP granted Mrs. Leighy lifetime tenancy and so she occupied the house at Woodlawn until her death in 1983. The following year, the NTHP permanently opened the house to the public. The house, however, eventually required a second move due to the instability of the clay soil. Between 1995 and 1996, Quinn Evans Architects and Kendall Pierce dismantled, repaired, and reconstructed the house about 30’ up the hill. The NTHP reopened the house to the public on June 8, 1996, in celebration of Wright’s birthday.¹⁶⁵

Subsequently, the NTHP endeavored to recreate the landscape surrounding the Pope-Leighey House similar to Wright’s original vision. While the house was l-shaped, Wright’s plan incorporated a tulip poplar strategically placed to complete the fourth “corner” of the house. Adjacent to the tree, a hemicycle of low bushes and shrubs provided a sense of enclosure by suggesting “walls.” Reconstruction of Wright’s landscape concluded in 2001.¹⁶⁶

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¹⁶⁴ Stewart L. Udall, “Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, to Gordon Gray, Chairman, National Trust for Historic Preservation,” March 30, 1964, Pope-Leighey House Relocation Correspondence, Woodlawn Archives.

¹⁶⁵ Jeff Turrentine, “Architects,” *Washington Post*, December 30, 2004; National Trust for Historic Preservation, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Pope-Leighey House: Technical Tour.”

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Woodlawn

LOCATION

WOODLAWN IS LOCATED IN HIGHLY SUBURBANIZED SOUTHEASTERN FAIRFAX COUNTY IN THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES NORTHERN VIRGINIA CULTURAL REGION. WOODLAWN LIES APPROXIMATELY SEVEN MILES SOUTHWEST OF ALEXANDRIA, STRADDLING U.S. ROUTE 1/RICHMOND HIGHWAY AND MOUNT VERNON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY/STATE ROUTE 235. WOODLAWN'S CORE BOUNDARY ENCOMPASSES 138.42 ACRES, WHICH IS ROUGHLY BOUNDED BY DOGUE CREEK TO THE SOUTH AND EAST; FORT BELVOIR TO THE NORTH AND WEST; MOUNT VERNON MEMORIAL HIGHWAY TO THE EAST; AND OLD MILL ROAD TO THE EAST.

LAT: 38.715657 LONG: -77.135498 (CENTER OF HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT, ALONG RICHMOND HIGHWAY, GOOGLE EARTH, SIMPLE CYLINDRICAL PROJECTION, WGS84)

PRESENT OWNERS

ALEXANDRIA MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH

SIGNIFICANCE

WOODLAWN HAS A COMPLEX AND MULTIFACETED PAST AS ITS VARIOUS PROPERTIES NOT ONLY CONVEY INDIVIDUAL HISTORIES, BUT ALSO FORM A BROADER, INTERMINGLED HISTORY. WOODLAWN RETAINS THE LAST TRACES OF A HISTORICALLY RURAL, AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY THAT REFLECT PATTERNS OF SETTLEMENT, USE, AND DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH THE LAND AND ITS BUILDINGS.

WOODLAWN'S PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE BEGINS IN 1799, WHEN GEORGE WASHINGTON LEFT NEARLY 2,000 ACRES TO HIS STEP GRANDDAUGHTER, ELEANOR CUSTIS PARKE LEWIS, AND HER HUSBAND, LAWRENCE. THE PERIOD ENDS IN 1964 WHEN THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION (NTHP) PRESERVED FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S POPE-LEGHEY HOUSE BY RELOCATING IT TO WOODLAWN. WOODLAWN IS SIGNIFICANT IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURAL HISTORY, COMMUNITY PLANNING, RELIGION, SOCIAL HISTORY, ETHNIC HERITAGE, AND CONSERVATION. ADDING TO WOODLAWN'S HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE ARE ITS BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, LANDSCAPES, AND GARDENS, WHICH DEMONSTRATE DIFFERENT PERIODS, MOVEMENTS, AND STYLES IN ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE.

WOODLAWN MANSION, DESIGNED IN THE EARLY 1800S BY DR. WILLIAM THORNTON, REPRESENTS A NOTABLE EXAMPLE OF RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE THAT INTEGRATES GEORGIAN AND FEDERAL FEATURES. THE MANSION ALSO EXHIBITS TWENTIETH-CENTURY COLONIAL REVIVAL DESIGN ELEMENTS BY RESTORATION ARCHITECTS EDWARD W. DONN, JR. AND WADDY WOOD. IN ADDITION, THE GROUNDS IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING WOODLAWN MANSION REFLECT LANDSCAPE DESIGNS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COLONIAL REVIVAL MOVEMENT, INCLUDING A 1920S FORMAL GARDEN IMPLEMENTED BY OWNER BERTHA UNDERWOOD AND REMNANTS OF A 1950S RESTORATION LANDSCAPE PLAN BY ALDEN HOPKINS. DATING TO THE EARLY 1930S, THE RECONSTRUCTED GRISTMILL AND MILLER'S HOUSE AT GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GRISTMILL AND DISTILLERY ALSO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT EXAMPLES OF COLONIAL REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE AT WOODLAWN. THE WOODLAWN QUAKER MEETINGHOUSE, WHICH EMBODIES THE VERNACULAR QUAKER PLAIN STYLE, AND THE RELOCATED POPE-LEGHEY HOUSE, ASSOCIATED WITH THE MODERN MOVEMENT, FURTHER ENHANCE WOODLAWN'S ARCHITECTURAL DIVERSITY. IN ADDITION, GRAND VIEW STANDS AS ONE OF THE OLDEST SURVIVING QUAKER HOUSES IN THE AREA.

WITH REGARDS TO AGRICULTURAL HISTORY, WOODLAWN CONTAINS THE FORMER SITE OF WASHINGTON'S GRISTMILL AND DISTILLERY OPERATION THAT WAS SUCCESSFUL DURING THE LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. THROUGHOUT THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY, WOODLAWN COMPOSED A PLANTATION LANDSCAPE UNDER THE LEWIS FAMILY ALTHOUGH THEIR AGRICULTURAL EFFORTS PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL. FROM THE MID TO LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY, QUAKER AND BAPTIST SETTLERS AND FREEDMEN DIVIDED THE ACREAGE TO CREATE A FARMING COMMUNITY THAT SUCCEEDED IN TIMBER PRODUCTION, FRUIT CROPS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL YIELDS. LAND AT WOODLAWN CONTINUED TO BE USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AS OWNER ELIZABETH SHARPE CONSTRUCTED A DAIRY, A LARGE BARN, A CORNBRIE, AND OTHER FARM BUILDINGS. FROM THE 1950S UNTIL 2014, SHARPE'S COMPLEX SERVED AS AN EQUESTRIAN FACILITY UNDER ITS OWNERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL TRUST. THE ACREAGE THAT COMPOSES WOODLAWN THUS REFLECTS VARIOUS PATTERNS OF AGRICULTURAL USAGE FROM THE PAST TWO CENTURIES.

WOODLAWN IS SIGNIFICANT IN THE AREA OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AS A CONTIGUOUS 138.42-ACRE GROUP OF PARCELS ONCE ASSOCIATED WITH A PRE-CIVIL WAR QUAKER SETTLEMENT IN WHICH APPROXIMATELY 2,000 ACRES OF LAND WAS DIVIDED INTO SMALL FARMS AND SOLD TO FREE AFRICAN AMERICANS, NORTHERN QUAKERS, AND OTHER ABOLITIONISTS. THIS BOLD SOCIAL EXPERIMENT CREATED A MULTIRACIAL COMMUNITY OF LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS THAT SUCCESSFULLY OPERATED WITHOUT THE USE OF SLAVE LABOR IN A SOUTHERN, SLAVEHOLDING STATE. THE COMMUNITY GREW AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, WITH NEW RESIDENCES, CHURCHES, BUSINESSES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE REMAINING 138.42 ACRES AND IN THE SURROUNDING AREA THROUGHOUT THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. FOR THESE REASONS, WOODLAWN ALSO IS SIGNIFICANT IN THE AREAS OF SOCIAL HISTORY AND ETHNIC HERITAGE.

IN THE AREA OF RELIGION, THE WOODLAWN QUAKER MEETINGHOUSE AND BURIAL GROUND AND THE WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY PROVIDE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY QUAKER AND BAPTIST RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES. AS THE QUAKERS AND BAPTISTS USED WOODLAWN MANSION AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP, THEIR RELIGIOUSLY-BASED IDEALS INFLUENCED THEIR MANAGEMENT, DIVISION, AND SALE OF LAND, AS WELL AS THE PUSH TOWARD EDUCATION FOR ALL BY THE SETTLERS. AS FOR EDUCATION, GRAND VIEW SERVES AS A PHYSICAL SYMBOL OF EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT AT WOODLAWN BECAUSE OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH BUILDER JOSEPH MOSHER WOOD AND HIS WIFE, ELIZABETH TOWNSEND WOOD, WHO WERE IMPORTANT ADVOCATES FOR EDUCATION DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA.

AS FOR CONSERVATION, WOODLAWN IS REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE THE PORTION OF LAND THAT CONTAINS THE RESTORED GRISTMILL AND MILLER'S HOUSE BECAME THE FIRST STATE PARK IN VIRGINIA TO BE INTERPRETED AS A HISTORIC SITE. ALSO IN THE AREA OF CONSERVATION, THE WOODLAWN PUBLIC FOUNDATION'S EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE AND PRESERVE WOODLAWN MANSION EXEMPLIFIED THE PURPOSE FOR CREATING THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RESULTED IN THE NATIONAL TRUST ACCEPTING WOODLAWN AS ITS FLAGSHIP PROPERTY IN 1951. IN ADDITION, WOODLAWN CONTAINS MODERN ARCHITECT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S POPE-LEGHEY HOUSE, WHICH THE NATIONAL TRUST PRESERVED IN THE 1960S BY RELOCATING TO THE WOODLAWN PROPERTY. WOODLAWN ALSO REPRESENTS THE CONTINUED CAREFUL MAINTENANCE BY SUCCESSIVE TENANTS AND OWNERS OF BOTH HISTORIC AND NEWLY CONSTRUCTED RESOURCES.

HISTORIAN

STEPHANIE N. BRYAN, THE JAEGER COMPANY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

PROJECT INFORMATION

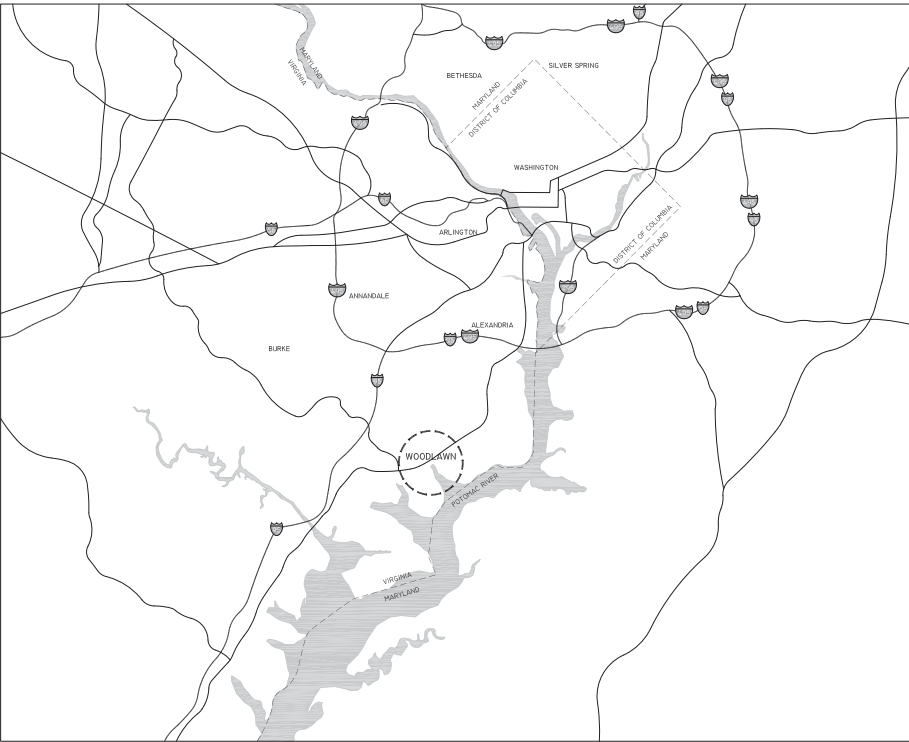
DOCUMENTATION OF THE WOODLAWN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE HISTORIC DISTRICT WAS PREPARED BY STAFF MEMBERS OF THE JAEGER COMPANY UNDER THE PRIME CONSULTANT, NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC. INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROJECT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NEW SOUTH ASSOCIATES, INC.

KRISTIE PERSON, HISTORIAN/ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
DAVID DIENER, GRAPHICS SPECIALIST/PHOTOGRAPHER/GIS SPECIALIST

THE JAEGER COMPANY

KEYES WILLIAMSON, PRINCIPAL
STEPHANIE BRYAN, LANDSCAPE HISTORIAN/PROJECT MANAGER
CAMERON YATES, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE/GRAPHICS



REGIONAL MAP



VIEW OF WOODLAWN MANSION WITH CIRCULAR DRIVE



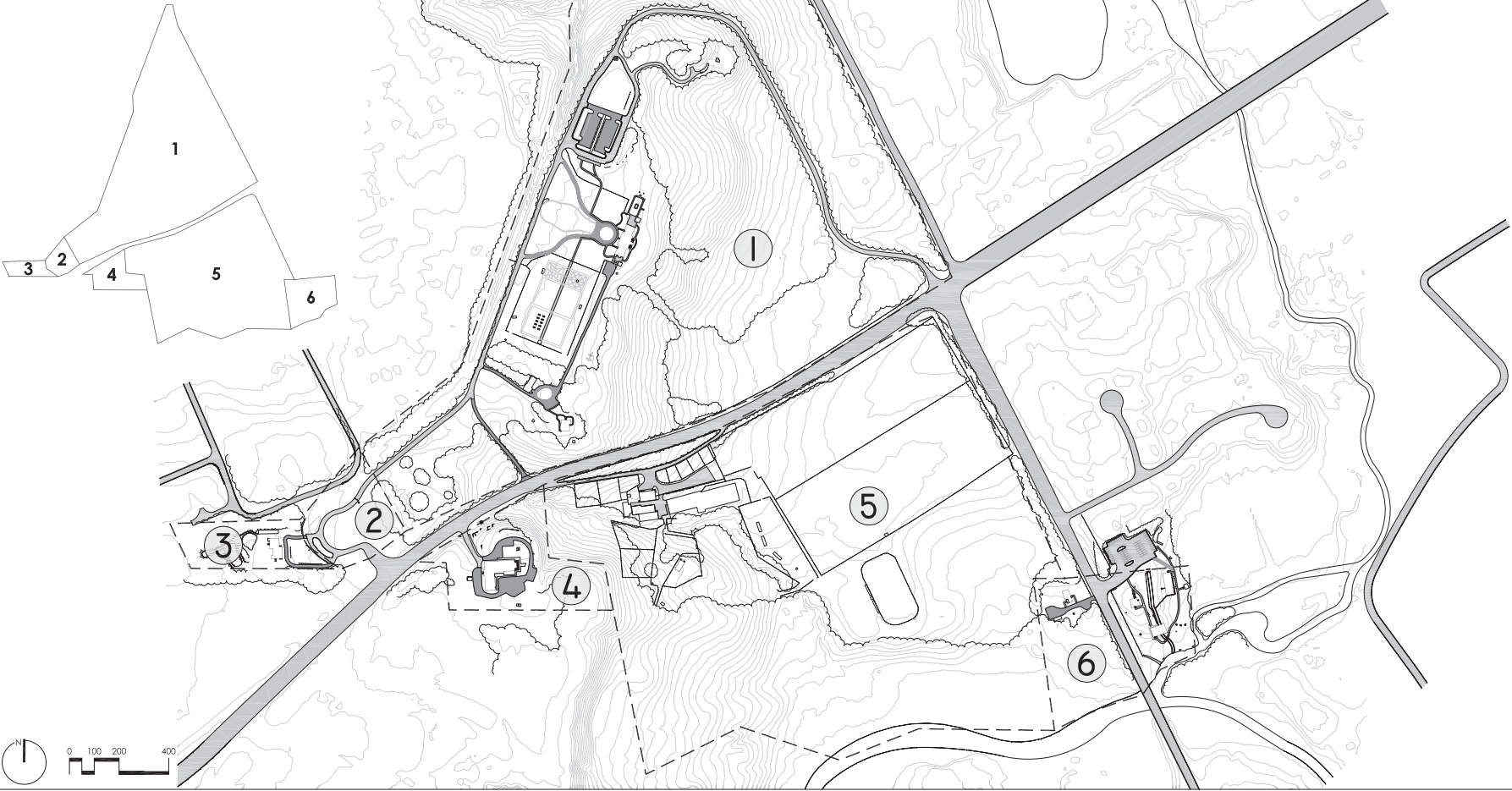
VIEW OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GRISTMILL

OVERALL MAP

LEGEND

— — — — — PARCEL BOUNDARY

1. NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, NORTH PARCEL, 45.6 ACRES
 - WOODLAWN
 - GRAND VIEW
 - POPE-LEIGHET HOUSE
2. NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, CROSSROADS PARCEL, 2.82 ACRES
3. ALEXANDRIA MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, 2.40 ACRES
 - WOODLAWN QUAKER MEETINGHOUSE AND BURIAL GROUND
4. WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH, 5.16 ACRES
 - WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY
5. NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, SOUTH PARCEL, 56.7 ACRES
 - SHARPE STABLE COMPLEX
 - OTIS TUFTON MASON HOUSE
6. MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION, 5.74 ACRES
 - GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GRISTMILL



PLAN ENLARGEMENT INDEX

- 1. WOODLAWN
- 2. GRAND VIEW
- 3. POPE-LEIGHY HOUSE
- 4. WOODLAWN QUAKER MEETINGHOUSE AND BURIAL GROUND, CROSSROADS
- 5. WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY
- 6. SHARPE STABLE COMPLEX, OTIS TUFTON MASON HOUSE
- 7. GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GRISTMILL



DELINEATED BY THE JAEGER COMPANY
RE: WOODLAWN
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ALEXANDRIA

BOUNDED BY OLD MILL RD., MT. VERNON MEMORIAL HWY., FORT BELVOIR, AND DOGUE CREEK

VIRGINIA 3 OF 10

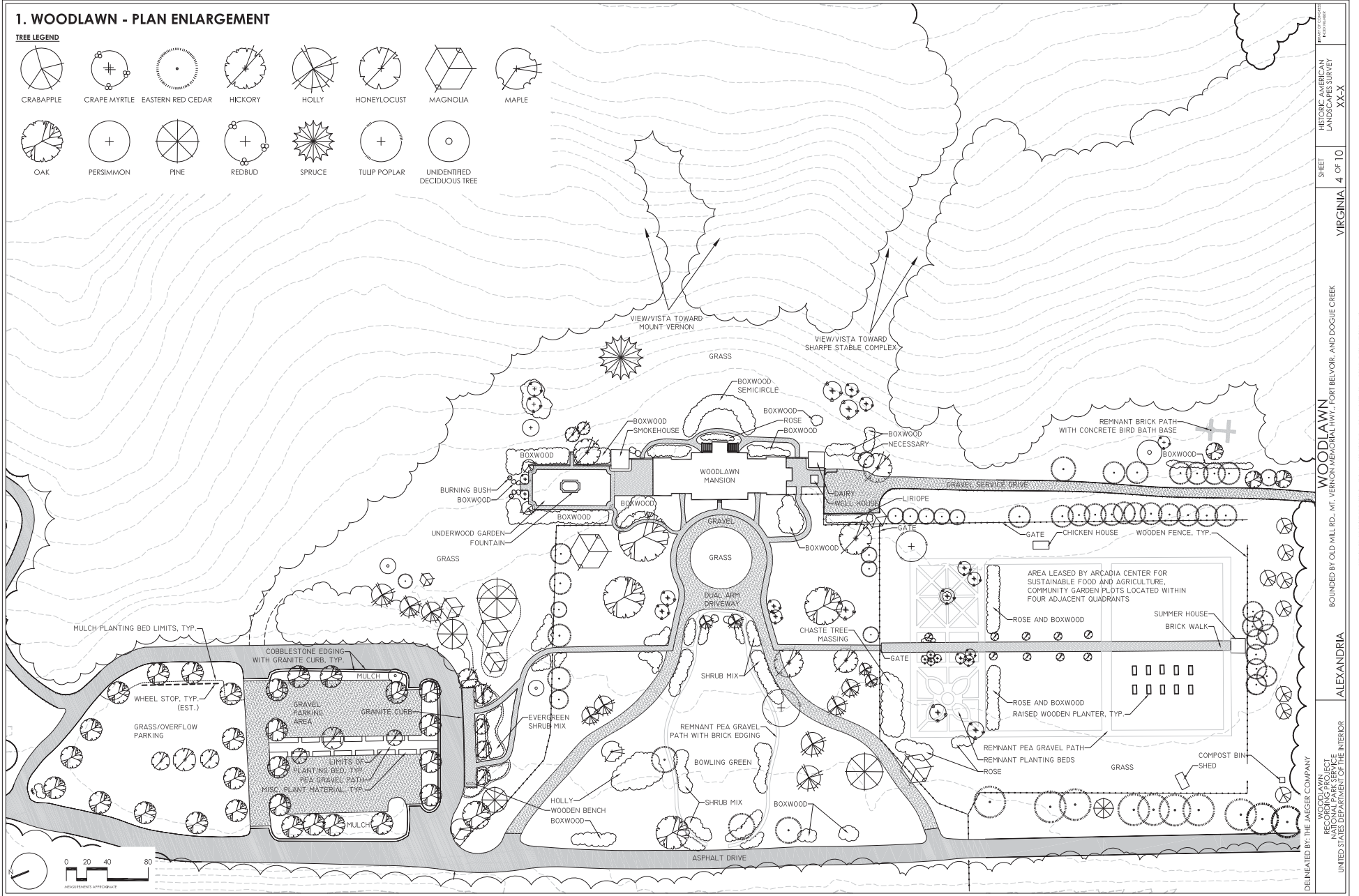
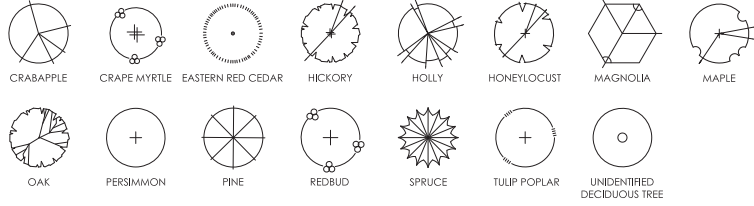
HISTORIC AMERICAN
LANDSCAPES SURVEY

XX-X

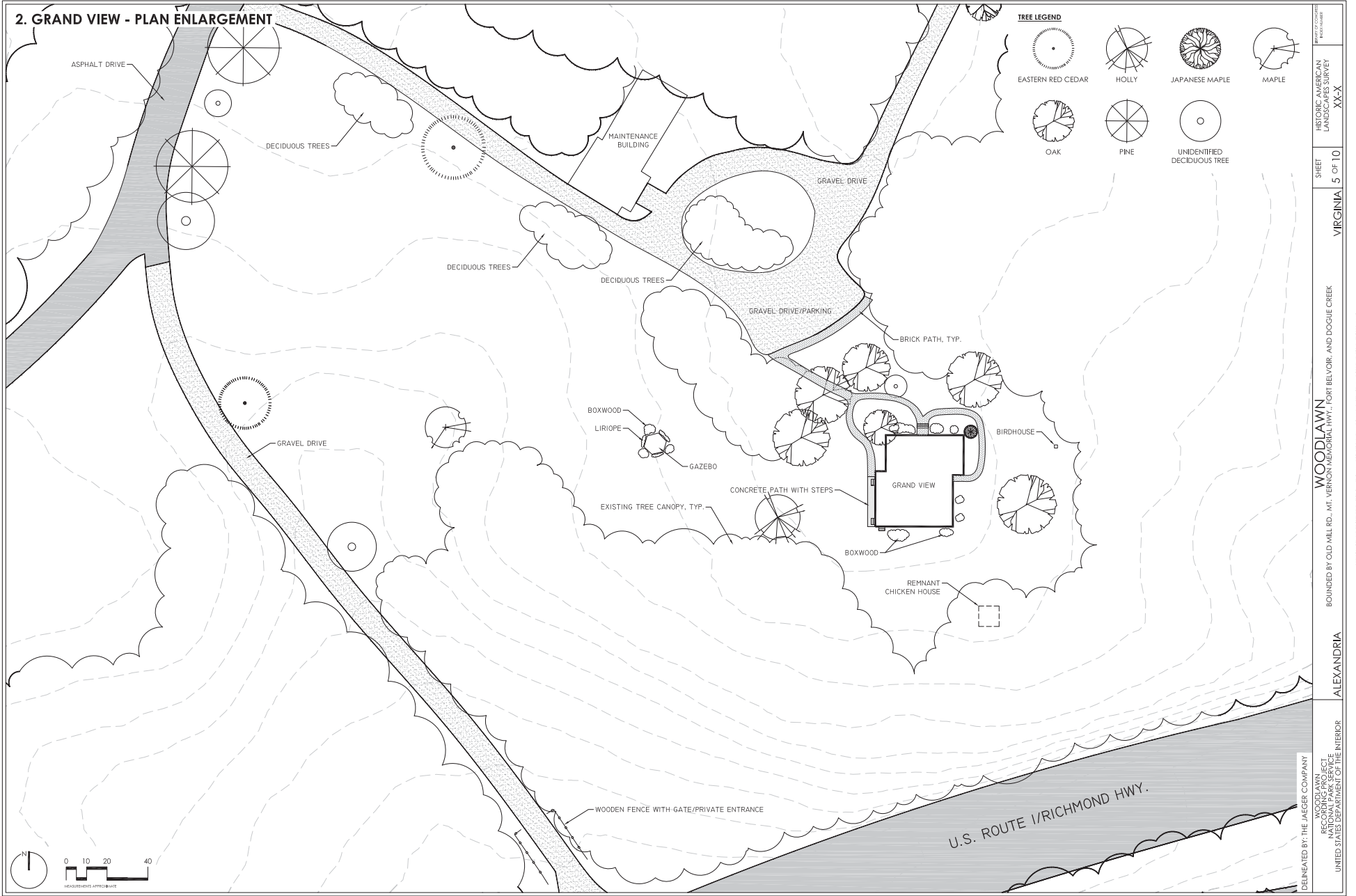
PROPERTY OF CONGRESS
LANDSCAPE

1. WOODLAWN - PLAN ENLARGEMENT

TREE LEGEND



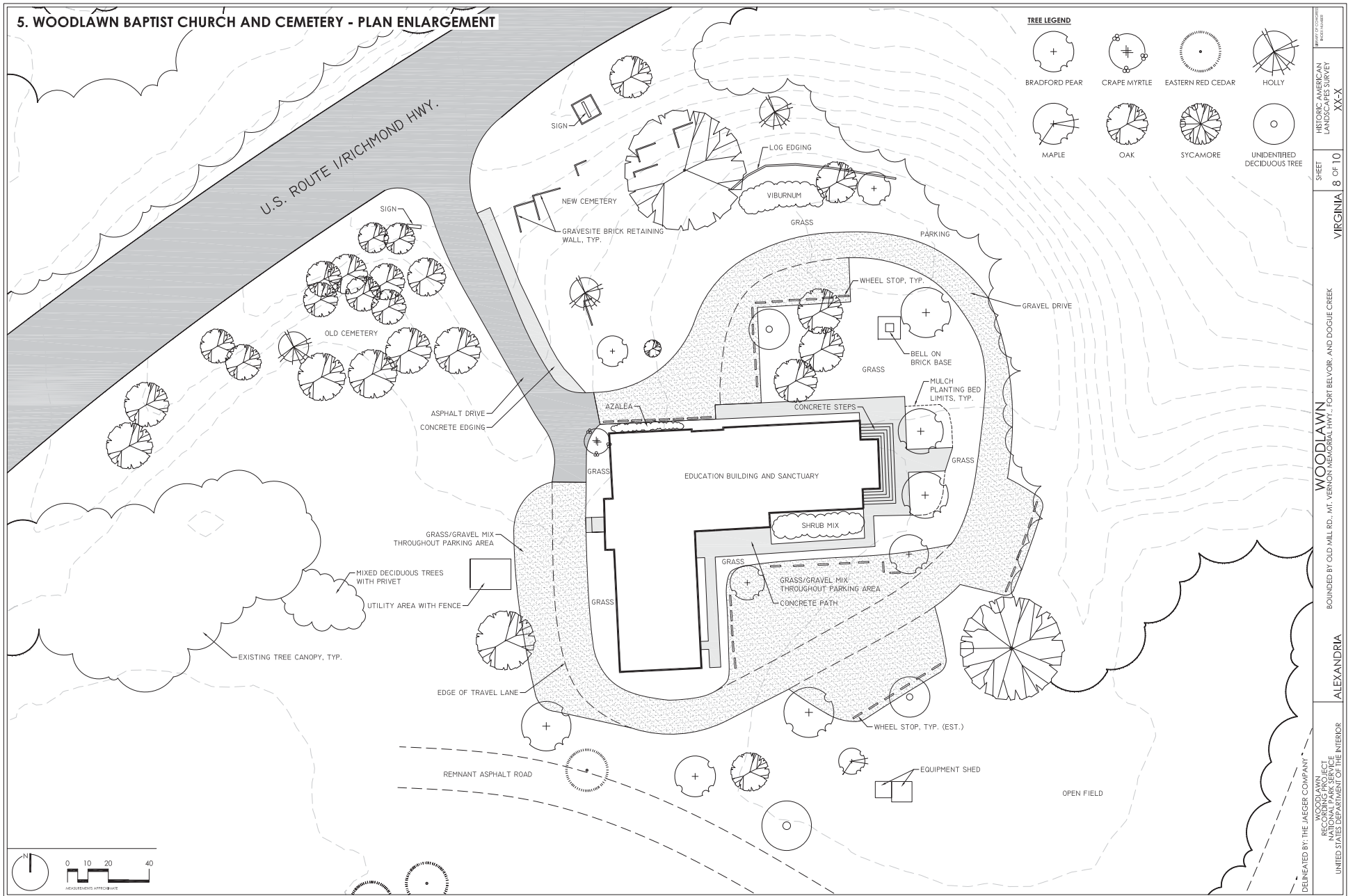
2. GRAND VIEW - PLAN ENLARGEMENT



3. POPE-LEIGHEY HOUSE - PLAN ENLARGEMENT

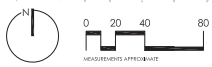


5. WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY - PLAN ENLARGEMENT



WOODPLAWN RECORDING PROJECT NAME UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	WOODPLAWN BOUNDED BY OLD MILL RD., MT. VERNON, MANASSAS, VA., FORT BELVOIR, AND DOGUE CREEK	SHEET 8 OF 10	XX-X
ALEXANDRIA		VIRGINIA	HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPE SURVEY
			DATE OF CHANGE REVISION

U.S. ROUTE 1/RICHMOND HWY.



BRADFORD PEAR	EASTERN RED CEDAR	HONEYLOCUST	LEYLAND CYPRESS	MAGNOLIA
OAK	SWEETGUM	SYCAMORE	UNIDENTIFIED DECIDUOUS TREE	

7. GEORGE WASHINGTON'S GRISTMILL - PLAN ENLARGEMENT

